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United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-eighth session (9 June-3 July 2008)

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Sixty-third Session
Supplement No. 16

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I
Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) on 30 April 2008 and its substantive session from 9 June to 3 July 2008 at United Nations Headquarters. It held a total of 20 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-eighth session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat (E/AC.51/2008/L.2), submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267, informing the Committee that there were no relevant reports of the Joint Inspection Unit available for consideration at its forty-eighth session.

Programme of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2008/L.1), listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 June, the Committee approved its provisional programme of work for the session, with the understanding that adjustments would be made by the Bureau, as necessary, during the course of the session.

6. Following the 2nd meeting, an informal briefing on organizational issues related to the session was given by the Secretary of the Committee and an informal briefing on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 was given by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division. In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 152, 153 and 159 of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16), as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/224, the Committee devoted its morning meeting on 16 June to the issue of part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, with high-level participation, and its afternoon meeting on 16 June to an informal dialogue on coordination issues with the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 30 April, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Ren Yisheng (China) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-eighth session.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-eighth session: Vice-Chairmen: Hendrik O. van der Westhuizen (South Africa), Yuliana Zhivkova Georgieva (Bulgaria) and Samer S. Alouan Kanafani (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). Stefania Rosini (Italy) was elected, by acclamation, Rapporteur of the forty-eighth session.

9. The members of the Bureau for the forty-eighth session of the Committee are listed below:

Chairman:
Ren Yisheng (China)

Vice-Chairmen:
Hendrik O. **van der Westhuizen** (South Africa)
Yuliana Zhivkova **Georgieva** (Bulgaria)
Samer S. **Alouan Kanafani** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Rapporteur:
Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

C. Attendance

10. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented on the Committee:

Argentina
Armenia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Central African Republic
China
Comoros
Cuba
France
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Kenya
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Niger
Pakistan
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Senegal
South Africa
Switzerland
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Zimbabwe

11. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Angola
Austria
Colombia
Croatia
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Germany
Japan
Mexico
Namibia
Nigeria
Panama
Poland
Singapore
Slovenia
Spain
Syrian Arab Republic
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations

12. The following funds and programmes were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
United Nations Population Fund
World Food Programme

13. Also present at the session were the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services; the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and Special Adviser on Africa; the Under-Secretary-General for Management; the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Controller; the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator; the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB); the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit; and senior officials of the Secretariat.

14. The following programmes and/or parts of programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 were discussed by videoconference: programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space; and programme 19, Human rights.

D. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-eighth session is set out in annex II to the present report.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

16. At the 20th meeting, on 3 July, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee (E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and Add. 1-35).

17. Before the adoption of the report the representatives of Italy, Israel, the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Portugal and Jamaica made statements. The representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in his capacity as observer, also made a statement.

18. The Chairman of the Committee provided clarifications on a question raised on the adoption of the provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-eighth session (E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and Add. 1-35).

20. Before the closure of the session, statements were made by Bangladesh, Belarus, Argentina, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa, France, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Indonesia, Uruguay, Armenia, Brazil and Switzerland. The representatives of the United States of America and Ukraine, in their capacity as observers, also made statements.

Chapter II
Programme questions

A. Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007

21. At its 4th meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/63/70).

22. The Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Controller, introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. Representatives of the Office of Internal Oversight Services were also present.

Discussion

23. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed their overall approval of its conclusions. Support was expressed for the need to enhance inter-agency interaction and coordination.

24. Several delegations noted the late issuance of the report and the Secretariat was encouraged to respect the rules regarding the issuance of documentation. The recurrent late submission of documents in all official languages was seen as pointing to fundamental, perhaps cyclic, issues in the governance and management of the Organization. It was suggested that the Secretariat analyse the issues at hand and propose solutions.

25. In that regard, the intention of the Secretary-General to include, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, an indicator of achievement on the timely submission of pre-session documents under executive direction and management for each department was welcomed.

26. Concern was expressed regarding the methodological problems in respect of formulating and measuring performance. It was noted that those issues were meant to be addressed within the context of the report dated 19 February 2008 of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework and results-based management framework (A/62/701 and Corr.1).

27. The question was raised regarding what information that report provided to Member States on the Organization's actual impact during the biennium.

28. The view was expressed that planning and budgeting constituted the key process in the United Nations, as in any organization. As such, the process should allow the intergovernmental bodies to prioritize objectives and allocate resources accordingly. Therefore, Member States and the Secretariat must find ways to improve that process so that it became both simpler and more meaningful. There should be more focus on genuine results-based management and less focus on the allocation of individual posts to individual units and measurement of output-based implementation rates.

29. The Secretariat was commended for achieving an output implementation rate of 89 per cent, but the view was expressed that that figure represented a 1 per cent

decrease from the previous biennium, and the Secretariat was asked to determine and address the cause of the decrease.

30. Concern was expressed about the low output implementation rates for safety and security and disarmament, and it was noted that implementation rates for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States was also relatively low. The Secretariat was encouraged to improve those rates.

31. It was noted that peacekeeping operations had reached an implementation rate of 100 per cent, but it was also pointed out that the Organization was still undertaking two very difficult peacekeeping operations (the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad), which continued to affect peace and stability in Africa.

32. Specific questions were raised regarding what programme managers and their staff had done to improve their performance in the area of utilizing programme performance data in decision-making, why the United Nations information centres did not have Chinese-language websites and the Secretariat's plans for filling vacancies expeditiously and for succession planning in the conference-servicing area at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

33. The Secretariat was encouraged to take effective action to address each of those issues.

34. The point was made that perhaps an enterprise resource planning system could assist in improving planning, including the planning of producing reports.

Conclusions and recommendations

35. **The Committee expressed its regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007 had not been issued in accordance with the six-week rule and, in that regard, reiterated the need to improve the responsiveness and accountability of procedures within the Secretariat and to ensure the timely issuance of all relevant documents in accordance with the six-week rule, in order to guarantee their proper consideration by the Committee in the discharge of its mandate.**

36. **The Committee recognized the methodological problems encountered in preparing that report and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to make methodological changes related to the improvement of the quality of the formulation of expected accomplishments and performance indicators in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, taking into account the comments of the Committee.**

37. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to propose modifications to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation[1] so as to move the Organization beyond results-based budgeting towards genuine results-based management, taking into account any decision the Assembly might take**

[1] ST/SGB/2000/8.

within the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework and results-based management framework.

38. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly decide to use the detailed results set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007 in reviewing the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.**

39. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly recommend that all programme managers be held accountable for the achievement of results and for documenting progress towards fulfilling the commitments made in the programme budget through the request for compliance reports at the subprogramme level and the inclusion of the related management responsibilities in the performance appraisal process.**

40. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide, in future reports on the programme performance of the United Nations, comprehensive information on all relevant cross-cutting issues.**

41. **The Committee, having considered the need of Member States to better understand the impact of the different activities, recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide more detailed information on the outcome of monitoring and evaluation at the departmental and executive levels, taking into account, in particular, how lessons learned were shared and applied in planning activities.**

42. **While recognizing the progress achieved in the presentation of the information regarding challenges, obstacles and unmet goals, the Committee considered that that information had not been consistent across all programmes. In that regard, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to improve consistency and harmonize the presentation of the information across all programmes.**

B. Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011

Part one: Plan outline

43. At its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2008, the Committee considered Part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6 (Part one)).

44. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

45. General appreciation was expressed for presenting a document that adhered to General Assembly resolutions 58/269, 59/275, 61/235 and 62/224.

46. It was recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, had affirmed that the strategic framework, consisting of part one, a plan outline, and part two, a biennial programme plan, should constitute the principal policy directive of the Organization and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. Views were expressed that part one would reflect the longer-term objectives of the Organization while part two would cover a two-year period.

47. Views were expressed emphasizing the importance of the strategic framework, as it steered the direction of the Organization and represented the basis for programme planning and budgeting. The view was also expressed that the strategic framework must contribute to strengthening the United Nations at all levels and making it more effective and efficient. It was noted that the plan outline should reflect efforts made to implement the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of relevant major international conferences and summits. Support was expressed for maintaining the eight priorities identified since 1998 as priority areas for the period 2010-2011.

48. The clear explanation contained in section II, "Longer-term objectives of the Organization", was welcomed. The need to further prioritize through the elaboration of core issues was emphasised in order to prevent the Organization from becoming strained and overburdened. It was also observed that for some of the elements addressed in section II legislative mandates did not exist, while there were mandated priorities, including development, to which limited consideration had been given as part of the priority areas of the Organization. Concern was expressed at the lack of reference to the strengthening of the development pillar as a priority item for the Organization.

49. Views were expressed in favour of the creation of a more robust and modern Organization, through full accountability to Member States and within the Secretariat. The approach of strengthening the Organization through the establishment of an accountability framework was welcomed. Appreciation was expressed for the use of results-based budgeting as a tool to achieve accountability and, in that regard, the importance of monitoring and evaluation was pointed out.

50. Support was expressed for the strengthening of peacekeeping operations, preventative diplomacy and the settlement of international disputes or conflicts through negotiation.

51. Concern was expressed on the current global food crisis and its effects on meeting the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, it was pointed out that, in the previous few months, global food prices had spiralled out of control, largely affecting African countries. Views were expressed that the Organization needed to take concrete measures to combat the global food crisis and ensure continued progress in development.

52. Concern was raised over the reference to humanitarian reform in paragraph 18, as it was pointed out that no discussions had taken place on reform, but rather discussions were ongoing on strengthening and improving the Organization. Clarification was sought as to what was meant by "humanitarian reform". Concern was also expressed that the cluster approach had been included, although it was an issue still under discussion among Member States.

53. A view was expressed on the greater involvement of the Committee on issues of systemwide coherence, which would facilitate the direction the Organization would take. Views were also expressed that enhanced coordination in the overall United Nations system would help to better identify objectives and to plan activities. In that regard, it was imperative that the Committee shape clearly defined priorities, so that it could influence the programme of work of the Organization.

Conclusions and recommendations

54. **The Committee noted the changes in the format and narrative of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011.**

55. **The Committee reiterated the importance of the longer-term objectives of the Organization, which are aimed at ensuring the full achievement of its goals. In that regard, the Committee also stressed the need for coordinated effort by the Secretariat in order to better formulate suitable expected accomplishments in such a way that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States would be effectively and efficiently included.**

56. **While recognizing the improvement in the logframe, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly continue to encourage programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievements in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind the importance of defining the indicators in a way which ensured their clear measurability.**

57. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage programme managers, while preparing the programme plan, to take fully into account the obstacles, challenges, lessons learned and unmet goals encountered in the previous biennium, as reflected in the programme performance report.**

58. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the priorities for the period 2010-2011 contained in paragraph 45 of the plan outline.**

59. **The Committee recommended that programme managers be requested to ensure that all legislative mandates were accurately translated into programmes and subprogrammes, taking into account regulation 4.2 and rule 104.7 (e) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning and the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions on results-based budgeting.**

60. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to present future plan outlines (part one) of proposed frameworks taking fully into account the guidelines provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235 and 62/224, as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, so as to ensure that they more accurately captured the longer-term objectives of the Organization, based on all mandates that had been approved by the Member States.**

61. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review further the plan outline (part one) of the proposed framework for the period 2010-2011 so that it more accurately reflected the longer-term objectives of the**

Organization, based on all mandates that had been approved by the Member States.

62. **The Committee, reiterating its recommendation contained in paragraph 114 of its report on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16), stressed that the provision of United Nations support to delivering "one United Nations" pilot projects should not prejudge the outcome of the intergovernmental deliberations on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the General Assembly.**

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

63. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 1)).

64. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

65. General support for and recognition of the overall objective of the programme was expressed. The importance of services provided to Member States by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in New York and the other conference-servicing duty stations, namely Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, was recognized. Support was also expressed for the focus on the quality and quantity of services provided by the programme. Emphasis was placed on the importance for the Department to improve its coordination and communication in the area of conference services, avoid overlap and duplication between Headquarters and the conference-servicing duty stations in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and achieve cost-effectiveness.

66. The progress achieved in all duty stations on global management aimed at streamlining procedures, achieving economies of scale and improving the quality of conference services was appreciated. While views were expressed in general support of the proposed biennial programme plan and for the efforts of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to standardize the management of its services globally at all conference-servicing duty stations in an integrated manner, concern was expressed that standardization was overly simplified and that circumstances specific to duty stations, especially in Nairobi, needed to be recognized and addressed adequately. The view was expressed that changes proposed by the Committee on Conferences for the programme formed a good start.

67. The impact of difficulties arising from the implementation of the capital master plan on the services provided by the programme was recognized and views were expressed that efforts needed to be made to mitigate those difficulties.

68. It was recognized that the services provided by the programme had an impact on the work of Member States and it was emphasized that ensuring the balance between quality and timeliness in the processing and issuance of documents and the

provision of services was of utmost importance. It was also noted that ensuring the quality and quantity of documents and services was a shared responsibility.

69. Concerns were expressed regarding the adverse impact on the quality of services of the anticipated retirement of staff of the programme providing interpretation and translation services over coming years, as well as the high vacancies in some of the duty stations, especially in Nairobi. Views were expressed that it was important for the programme to consider succession planning and to collaborate with universities in developing and developed countries in order to accelerate the recruitment of qualified language staff.

70. Clarification was sought as to how to increase the provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings of Member States.

71. It was stressed that the client survey was an important method of evaluating client satisfaction with the quality of services provided by the Department and that it should therefore be continued.

Conclusions and recommendations

72. **The Committee welcomed the progress achieved in all duty stations in many areas of the Department's reform, in particular on global management, in order to streamline procedures, achieve economies of scale and improve the quality of conference services. While recognizing the importance of harmonizing and standardizing procedures in the four duty stations, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly take into account the specificities of each duty station and the different working contexts at the country level, in particular at the Division of Conference Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.**

73. **The Committee noted with concern the shortage of applications of highly qualified language staff to fill future vacancies owing to the retirement of a large group of staff and, in that regard, recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to consider measures for expeditious examination and recruitment procedures as well as adequate training in order to ensure the smooth turnover of language personnel, thus avoiding disruptive effects on the calendar of meetings, in particular at duty stations away from Headquarters.**

74. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.3

In the last sentence, replace the words "to actively provide" with "to provide in a proactive and synergistic manner".

Paragraph 1.4

Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: "Effective measures to be taken by the Department to seek the evaluation by

Member States of the quality of the conference services provided to them, as a key performance indicator of the Department, will provide equal opportunities to Member States to present their evaluations in the six official languages of the United Nations and will be in full compliance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the conduct of meetings as well as to the level and quality of technical secretariat services".

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Delivery of high-quality" with "Improved quality of".

In expected accomplishment (d), insert, the words "the timely" before "issuance of documents".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

In indicators (b) (i) and (ii), insert the words "percentage of" after "Increased".

In indicator (c) (i), replace the word "Maintain" with "Improved".

Replace indicator (d) with the following two indicators: "(d) (i) Increased percentage of documents submitted by author departments/ offices in accordance with the required deadline"; "(d) (ii) Increased percentage of documents submitted on time, within page limits and issued in accordance with the six-week rule".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.8

In the second sentence, after the words "from a full-system perspective", insert "while seeking greater quality and cost-effectiveness".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors."

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation, verbatim reporting and publishing services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.9

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "cost-effective" with "timely".

In subparagraphs (c) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

B. Conference management, Geneva

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Delivery of high-quality" with "Improved quality of".

In expected accomplishment (d) insert the words "the timely" before "issuance of documents".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

In indicators (b) (i) and (ii), insert the words "percentage of" after "Increased".

In indicator (c) (i), replace the word "Maintain" with "Improved".

Replace indicator (d) with the following two indicators: "(d) (i) Increased percentage of documents submitted by author departments/ offices in accordance with the required deadline"; "(d) (ii) Increased

percentage of documents submitted on time, within page limits and issued in accordance with the six-week rule".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.10

In subparagraph (a), after the words "United Nations bodies based in Geneva", insert "especially the Human Rights Council".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.11

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation and publishing services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.12

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "cost-effective" with "timely".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

C. Conference management, Vienna

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Delivery of high-quality" with "Improved quality of".

In expected accomplishment (d), insert the words "the timely" before "issuance of documents".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

In indicators (b) (i) and (ii), insert the words "percentage of" after "Increased".

In indicator (c) (i) replace the word "Maintain" with "Improved".

Replace indicator (d) with the following two indicators: "(d) (i) Increased percentage of documents submitted by author departments/ offices in accordance with the required deadline"; "(d) (ii) Increased percentage of documents submitted on time, within page limits and issued in accordance with the six-week rule".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.14

In the second sentence, insert the words "quality and" before "cost-effectiveness".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation and publishing services".

Paragraph 1.15

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "cost-effective" with "timely".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

D. Conference management, Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "Delivery of high-quality" with "Improved quality of".

In expected accomplishment (d), insert the words "the timely" before "issuance of documents".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs and members of expert bodies as to the quality of conference services".

In indicators (b) (i) and (ii), insert the words "percentage of" after "Increased".

In indicator (c) (i) replace the word "Maintain" with "Improved".

Replace indicator (d) with the following two indicators: "(d) (i) Increased percentage of documents submitted by author departments/offices in accordance with the required deadline"; "(d) (ii) Increased percentage of documents submitted on time, within page limits and issued in accordance with the six-week rule".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of translation and editorial services".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.17

In the second sentence, insert the words "quality and" before "cost-effectiveness".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) with "(a) Reduced number of complaints by representatives of Member States to intergovernmental organs, members of expert bodies and client departments as to the quality of interpretation and publishing services".

Paragraph 1.18

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "cost-effective" with "timely".

In subparagraphs (d) and (e), replace the words "all categories of staff (established capacity, freelancers and contractors)" with "all staff, whether permanent or temporary, and contractors".

Legislative mandates

Add the following mandate: "60/286 Revitalization of the General Assembly"

Programme 2
Political affairs

75. At its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 2)).

76. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

77. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme.

78. Clarification was sought about the formulation of certain aspects of the overall orientation of the programme; about some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under subprogrammes 1 and 5; about the availability of the online *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* in other languages; and about obstacles in implementing subprogramme 4.

79. Views were expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

80. Reference was made to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in its report on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: electoral assistance (E/AC.51/2007/2/Add.1) regarding the creation of an electronic roster of experts under subprogramme 2. Clarification was sought regarding the measures taken to address the gender and geographical representation of the experts on the roster.

81. A view was expressed that subprogrammes 4, 5 and 8 could not be supported. A view was also expressed that actual achievements in target countries should be included in the biennial programme plan for subprogramme 7.

Conclusions and recommendations

82. The Committee stressed the importance of the Department of Political Affairs working in an integrated and coordinated way with all relevant departments.

83. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 2.4

In the first sentence, replace the words "the international community for preventive diplomacy" with "Member States for conflict prevention" and delete "to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts".

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Merge expected accomplishments (a) and (b) to read: "(a) Improved capacity and capability of Member States to identify, prevent and address conflict situations".

Redesignate expected accomplishment (c) to (b) and replace the words "peace process" with "peace processes".

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) to (a) (i).

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) to (a) (ii) and, at the end of the indicator, insert the words "where the United Nations was asked to assist".

Redesignate indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (c) (ii) to (b) (i) and (b) (ii).

Strategy

Paragraph 2.9

Under (a), delete the words "new and potential".

Under (i), replace the words "preventative diplomacy" with "crisis prevention" and, after the word "security", add "military,".

Subprogramme 6
Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (a), add the words "with the support of the United Nations".

Subprogramme 7
Peacebuilding Support Office

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (c) to read "Interventions of direct and immediate impact as well as emergency disbursements made".

Redesignate the existing expected accomplishment (c) to (d).

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator (a) (iii) to read: "Number of background reports for the field visits provided on a timely basis by the Peacebuilding Support Office".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b) (iii) to read: "Activities of the Peacebuilding Fund are in line with the priorities identified by the Peacebuilding Commission".

Add a new indicator of achievement (c) to read: "Interventions of direct and immediate impact as well as emergency disbursements made on a timely basis, where applicable".

Redesignate the existing indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (c) (ii) to (d) (i) and (d) (ii), respectively.

Programme 3
Disarmament

84. At its 11th meeting, on 18 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 3)).

85. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

86. Appreciation and support was expressed for the programme and the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

87. The view was expressed that the proposed biennial programme plan placed more emphasis on small arms and non-proliferation than on disarmament in general. Clarification was sought on how client surveys were used to assess the achievements of the Office. Clarification was also sought on the modalities in place for Member States to request assistance from the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The view was also expressed that the link between disarmament and development could not be supported.

88. With regard to subprogramme 1, the view was expressed that there should be emphasis on developing countries in the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme. Concern was expressed and clarification was sought regarding the difficulty in increasing female participants in the programme.

89. Concerning subprogramme 2, clarification was sought on the specific mandate regarding combating terrorism as referred to in the objective. Clarification was also requested on the number of requests for assistance and substantive input and advice provided by the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch.

90. Regarding subprogramme 3, the view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement were too vague for measuring accomplishments. It was suggested that realistic and measurable benchmarks and targets be established. Clarification was sought as to the scope of activities and actions in place to further implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Clarification was also sought on the authority to assess and evaluate "excessive accumulation" of small arms and weapons. The view was expressed that since there was no mandate to establish common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, the Secretariat could only support discussions by Member States on the matter.

91. Clarification was sought on timelines and measures developed in implementation of the strategies under subprogramme 4. Clarification was also sought on the applicable rules and procedures in connection with participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in disarmament activities.

92. With regard to subprogramme 5, clarification was sought on the reason for the change in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 of indicator of achievement (b) (ii) that existed in the biennial programme for the period 2008-2009.

Conclusions and recommendations

93. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 3, Disarmament, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 3.2

The last sentence should be replaced by the following sentence, to read:

"Conventional disarmament, especially with regard to major weapons systems, small arms, light weapons and landmines, have received growing increased attention from the international community in view of the havoc that such weapons are inflicting on people's daily lives, in particular in conflict-ridden regions".

Paragraph 3.3

In the fifth sentence, after the words "in-depth analysis", delete the words "as well as monitoring of developments" and insert the words "keeping track of developments in these areas".

In the sixth sentence, after the words "aimed at preventing" the sentence should be revised to read: "the destabilizing and excessive accumulation of and illicit trafficking in and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in all their aspects".

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read:

"(a) Effective support to negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and in conferences and meetings of States parties to various multilateral agreements on arms limitation and disarmament, including non-proliferation in all its aspects at the organizational, procedural and substantive levels".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c) (i), after the words "Member States", insert the words "in particular developing countries".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.7

In subparagraph (a), after the word "Providing", replace the words "substantive and organizational support" with "organizational and substantive support".

At the end of subparagraph (a), delete the words "and non-proliferation".

In subparagraph (c), after "multilateral", delete the rest of the sentence and replace it with the words "disarmament, non-proliferation and arms-limitation agreements".

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective of the Organization to read:

"to promote and support the efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects and to assist Member States, at their request, in supporting existing treaties related to weapons of mass destruction".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Merge expected accomplishments (b) and (c) to read:

"(b) Enhanced knowledge, understanding and multilateral cooperation within the existing mandates, as well as ability to respond to challenges relating to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, as well as biological and chemical weapons, including terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction".

Delete expected accomplishment (c).

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (c) as (b) (iii).

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read:

"(a) Increased international action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons".

Indicators of achievement

Revise indicator (a) to read:

"(a) Increased number of actions undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons".

Revise indicator (b) (ii) to read:

"(ii) Number of States providing additional information on procurement from national production, military holdings and transfers of small arms and light weapons, pending the development of the Register by Member States".

Strategy

Paragraph 3.9

In subparagraph (c), after the word "deliberation", insert the words "(including on issues related to transfers),".

Delete subparagraph (e).

Redesignate the subparagraphs that follow.

Subprogramme 4
Information and outreach

Strategy

Paragraph 3.10

In subparagraph (b), after the words "Disarmament Matters", insert the word "including".

In subparagraph (d), delete the rest of the subparagraph after the word "Research".

Subprogramme 5
Regional disarmament

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the word "entities", delete the rest of the subparagraph.

Legislative mandates

Security Council resolutions

In the title of resolution 1673 (2006), delete the words "on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction".

Programme 4
Peacekeeping operations

94. At its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 4)).

95. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

96. Overall support was expressed for the programme of work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. Support was also expressed for the improvement in safety and security of peacekeeping personnel.

97. A concern was raised about the different approaches in training, as reflected in the overall orientation and in subprogramme 4. A question was raised regarding the linkage between development and peace and security, and how that important dimension could be incorporated into the programme of work.

98. The view was expressed that subprogramme 1 should incorporate specific operations.

99. Under subprogramme 2, concern was expressed about the impact of the recent decisions regarding the Office Military Affairs and the fulfilment of the mandates of the programme. The view was expressed that while the objective was clear, it should be more specific in order to allow proper assessment of the subprogramme. While

progress in planning and deployment of military components was noted, the view was expressed that there was a need to formalize timely arrangements with peacekeeping partners.

100. The view was also expressed that subprogramme 3 required specific assessment, as it reflected the consolidation of various subprogrammes which had existed in previous bienniums.

101. It was indicated that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement to be more concrete.

Conclusions and recommendations

102. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 4.5

After the fourth sentence, insert the following: "Sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development needs to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflicts. In that context, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and other relevant departments will plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding and long-term prevention of recurrence of armed conflict".

Paragraph 4.6

In the first sentence, delete the word "peace" and replace the words "of the" with "managed by".

In the second sentence, replace the words "peace operations" with "peacekeeping operations as well as special political missions supported by the Department of Field Support" and delete the words "procurement policy".

Paragraph 4.8

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence: "The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will implement the recommendations of the Special Committee, as endorsed by the Assembly".

Subprogramme 1
Operations

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with: "Number of recommendations incorporated in the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies regarding new and existing peacekeeping operations".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.10

In the second sentence, delete the word "fragile"; after the word "States", replace the word "and" with "in"; and replace the word "countries" with "situations".

In the third sentence, replace the words "peace operations" with "peacekeeping operations and special political missions supported by the Department of Field Support".

In the sixth sentence, delete the words "and security".

Subprogramme 3
Rule of law and security institutions

Strategy

Paragraph 4.14

In the last sentence, after the words "United Nations and", add "relevant"; after the word "actors", delete the rest of the sentence.

Subprogramme 4
Policy, evaluation and training

Indicators of achievement

At the beginning of indicator of achievement (a), insert the word "Timely".

Subprogramme 6
Integrated support services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "peace operations" with "peacekeeping operations and special political missions supported by the Department of Field Support".

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

103. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 5)).

104. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

105. Support was expressed for the programme. The work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and its benefits, particularly to developing countries, were recognized and commended. The importance of strengthening the capacity of developing

countries, in particular in the development of national space law and the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas related to sustainable development, was recognized.

106. Clarification was sought regarding activities planned by the Secretariat related to the submission of information on space objects in a timely and more harmonized manner, as reflected in indicator of achievement (a) (iii).

107. The view was expressed that the use of outer space should be in the interest of all Member States and, in particular, of those with economies in transition. The view was also expressed that it was necessary to enhance the level of transparency as regards activities in outer space, and that furthermore, it was necessary to improve the monitoring of debris in space.

108. Clarification was sought on whether climate change was part of the work of the Office. More information was sought regarding the activities conducted with respect to space law education.

109. Clarification was also sought on the work of the Office relating to food security, climate change and disaster management, and how the information was being shared with developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

110. **The Committee recommended that the issue of climate change, including the application of space-based technology in this area, continue to be on the agenda of the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the biennium 2010-2011 given the impact of climate change on different activities of the United Nations system and the need for a more systematic strategy to focus on it.**

111. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (d) (i), replace the words "the definition of disaster management planning" with the words "defining disaster management plans".

Strategy

Paragraph 5.5 (a)

Delete the words "the capacity to implement", and after the words "space activities", insert the words "and its implementation".

Programme 6
Legal affairs

112. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 6)).

113. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

114. General appreciation and support were expressed for the work carried out by the Office of Legal Affairs through its various subprogrammes.

115. Clarification was sought regarding the challenges faced by the Office of Legal Affairs in the light of the larger number of requests for advice.

116. Clarification was sought on the administration of justice, especially the provision of legal services and support to assist in the prosecution and punishment of staff members. Further clarification was sought as to whether any resolutions on the United Nations Administrative Tribunal had been adopted subsequent to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 55/159.

117. The view was expressed that at times it was difficult to separate the resource aspects from the programme of work. Clarification was accordingly sought on the extent to which the Office had taken into account performance results in peacekeeping activities and incorporated the lessons learned into the proposed biennial programme plan.

118. Under subprogramme 4, clarification was sought on the reason for the deletion in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 of the indicator of achievement (b) (ii) that existed in the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

Conclusions and recommendations

119. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1
Provision of legal services to the United Nations as a whole

Paragraph 6.7

In the second sentence, after words "International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda" insert the words "or their residual mechanism".

In the fourth sentence, after words "International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda" insert the words "or their residual mechanism".

Subprogramme 4
Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), before the word "implementing" insert the word "related".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), before the word "implementing" insert the word "related".

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), before the word "implementing" insert the word "related".

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

120. At its 13th meeting, on 19 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 7)).

121. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

122. Support was expressed for the programme and its overall orientation, objectives and subprogrammes. The important role that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat can play in facilitating initiatives to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development, social development and gender mainstreaming in all political, economic and social spheres was emphasized.

123. Support was expressed for furthering, under subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, reform of the Council and especially of the annual ministerial review and Development Cooperation Forum processes.

124. It was noted that, under subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, greater effort should be made to promote women's rights, including economic rights. The view was expressed that violence against women is a matter of concern for all countries. Clarification was sought on mechanisms designed to evaluate the implementation of goals relating to gender mainstreaming and violence against women.

125. Satisfaction was expressed with inclusion in the objective and strategy, under subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, of concerted poverty eradication, employment-generation and social integration. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be placed on support for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, older persons and youth.

126. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, more concerted efforts and concrete action were necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Clarification was sought on proposed measures to streamline national reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development and on measurements to verify progress in the implementation of the Goals and its impact on strengthening national development.

127. The importance of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was stressed. The urgent need to promote development in Africa, especially in the context of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, was emphasized.

128. Clarification was sought, under subprogramme 5, Statistics, on mechanisms of coordination with the regional commissions, other international organizations and multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank.

129. Clarification was sought on monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for reviewing achievements under subprogramme 8, Public administration and development management.

130. The view was expressed that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus should further promote participation of international institutions in the financing-for-development work conducted under subprogramme 10, Financing for development.

131. The view was expressed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs should further promote knowledge-sharing in the report production process by implementing, inter alia, recommendation 3 made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration (see E/AC.51/2006/2, sect. 6B).

Conclusions and recommendations

132. **The Committee noted the cross-cutting nature of the issues contained in the programme and in this regard underlined the importance of subprogramme 5, Statistics. The Committee recommended enhancing the strategy in order to achieve the objective of advancing the global statistical system through the full engagement of the different entities of the United Nations system as well as through the collection of statistical data from Member States.**

133. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.1

Delete the last sentence.

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 7.1 to read:

"7.2. The programme is under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Its key programmatic thrusts are (a) to provide substantive support to the bodies established under the Charter of the United Nations dealing with development issues, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its related functional commissions, and expert bodies and (b) to analyse development prospects globally."

Redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Old paragraph 7.2

In the first and second sentences, replace the words "including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit. Those commitments" with the word "that".

Old paragraph 7.3

In subparagraph (c), after the word "development", insert the words "and active promotion of capacity-building activities in order".

Subprogramme 2
Gender issues and advancement of women

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace existing expected accomplishment (d) with the following new accomplishment (d) to read:

"(d) Increased understanding of and enhanced policy support for measures to implement all relevant resolutions and decisions on gender issues, including on women and armed conflict".

Indicators of achievement

Replace existing indicator (d) with the following new indicator (d) to read:

"(d) Increased number of United Nations entity-specific policies and action plans developed with the support of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on implementation of resolutions and decisions on gender issues, including on women and armed conflict".

Subprogramme 3
Social policy and development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the word "countries" insert the words "with the support of the Division for Social Policy and Development".

Subprogramme 6
Population

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words ", the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit" with the words "and the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields related to population and development, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit".

Strategy

In old subparagraph 7.11 (a), after the words "and the achievement of" insert the words "internationally agreed development goals, including".

Subprogramme 7
Development policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication".

Strategy

In old subparagraph 7.12 (e), after the words "Assistance to", replace the words "the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly" with the words "the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council".

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

134. At its 18th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 8)).

135. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

136. Overall support was expressed for the programme and for the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

137. Concern was expressed with respect to the realignment of the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and its impact on the programme. The view was expressed that the realignment was not in line with General Assembly resolution 56/227, whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative.

138. Questions were raised with regard to the mobilization and coordination of international aid. The view was expressed that limited progress had been realized, particularly for the least developed countries. The view was also expressed that support to this group of countries should be placed as a priority within the international community. The suggestion was made that assistance should be provided to those countries in the area of industrial development.

139. Under subprogramme 1, the view was expressed that while the objective was important and ambitious, the indicators of achievement did not sufficiently reflect attainment of the objective. Clarification was sought whether indicator of achievement (a) (i) really contributed to improvement of the quality of life. The view was expressed that there was no corresponding strategy in relation to indicator of achievement (a) (ii). A question was raised on how to measure indicator of achievement (b), Progress of the least developed countries on the agreed goals.

140. Under subprogramme 3, it was indicated that the medium-term review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was not clearly reflected in the subprogramme. A question was raised on the mobilization of international support described in the objective of the subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

141. The Committee recalled General Assembly resolution 56/227 and recommended that adequate focus and support be ensured for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, for fulfilling its established mandate. In that context, the Committee regretted the decision to merge the Office of the High Representative and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa without any mandate.

142. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 8.2

In subparagraph (a) (iii), at the beginning of the subparagraph, insert the words "the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its follow-up,".

Paragraph 8.5

In subparagraph (a), after the words "as well as", insert the words "the Barbados Programme of Action and".

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Strategy

Paragraph 8.6

At the end of the paragraph, add a new subparagraph, to read:

"(g) Facilitating effective participation of the least developed countries in decision-making in various intergovernmental bodies, which will contribute towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action".

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Objective of the Organization

After the words "support for", insert the words "the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its follow-up".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), after the words "implementation of" insert the words "the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its follow-up".

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

143. At its 18th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 9)).

144. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

145. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme, including for its important coordination role.

146. The view was expressed that the overall orientation of the programme was ambitious and that emphasis should be placed on supporting Africa in its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

147. Support was expressed for the role of subprogramme 3 in raising international awareness of the situation in Africa. The view was expressed that the issuance of the magazine *Africa Renewal* might not be sufficient in that regard, and that other means should also be used. In this context, views were expressed that strategic relations must be developed with academic institutions in Africa highlighting the potential catalytic role of this subprogramme in information exchanges on best practices as well as building networks and gender-targeted programmes.

148. The efforts of the United Nations were welcomed and support was expressed for all thematic clusters. The desire for the development of regional programmes with a view to creating markets for the exchange of goods and services within Africa was also expressed.

149. Views were expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement. Clarification was sought on the formulation of certain aspects of the strategies of the subprogrammes as well as on the measurability and specificity of some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

Conclusions and recommendations

150. **The Committee recommended that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa include the outcomes of future meetings dedicated to the development of Africa, such as the two high-level meetings on development to be held during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.**

151. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Strategy

Paragraph 9.9

Replace the first sentence with the following: "The responsibility of this subprogramme is vested in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, who will be proactive in working closely with Member States, the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat and the entire United Nations system (including the Bretton Woods institutions) in the performance of its functions.

Renumber paragraph 9.9 as 9.7 and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) (i) with the following: "The number of recommendations in the reports of the Secretary-General incorporated into resolutions on African development adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and other intergovernmental organs of the United Nations".

Subprogramme 3
Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "critical economic and social situation" with the words "critical economic, social and environmental situation".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (a) (ii) with the following: "Increased number of magazines published in a timely manner".

Redesignate indicator (c) as (c) (i).

Add a new indicator (c) (ii) to read:

"(ii) Number of United Nations information centres reported to have proactively performed public advocacy on the issue of African development as part of their work".

Programme 10
Trade and development

152. At its 17th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 10)).

153. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

154. Support was expressed for the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO. The role of UNCTAD as the principal entity of the United Nations for trade and development was emphasized.

155. Support was also expressed for strengthening the capacity of UNCTAD in the areas of trade and development, finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. Satisfaction was expressed that such challenges as energy, climate change and the food crisis had been properly reflected in the expected accomplishments.

156. It was noted that provisions of the Accra Accord had already been reflected in the programme of work. It was observed that the results of the review of the biennial programme plan by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD (see E/AC.51/2008/6) had been made available to the Committee on very short notice. However, it was also noted that the Working Party had just concluded its review and the results had been conveyed immediately. It was further noted that the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD had not yet reviewed the revised biennial plan and that efforts should be made to ensure timely consideration by the Board in future.

157. Clarification was sought about the extent of coordination of the work of UNCTAD with that of other entities of the United Nations system, especially in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Clarification was also sought about measuring indicators of achievement.

158. It was noted that the biennial programme plan should better reflect the Accra Accord, especially under subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes. It was observed that UNCTAD must strengthen its special focus on the needs of the least developed countries and Africa across all areas of its mandate. The view was expressed that subprogramme 5 should be further strengthened. The importance of assisting Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development was stressed, especially bearing in mind the challenges African countries faced in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

159. A view was expressed that the calendar of meetings of the sectoral, functional and regional bodies should be further harmonized so that relevant reports could be issued in a timely manner in all languages with a view to facilitating their consideration by the Committee.

Conclusions and recommendations

160. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed biennial programme plan, as contained in document A/63/6 (Prog. 10) and in annex II to the letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/AC.51/2008/6), subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 3
International trade

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat (see E/AC.51/2008/6, annex II)

In expected accomplishment (b), after the words "trade-related decision-making", insert "including in addressing the trade and development impact of non-tariff barriers".

Indicators of achievement (see E/AC.51/2008/6, annex II)

Add the following new indicator (b) (ii) to read: "(b) (ii) Increased number of specific actions/initiatives taken by Member States to reduce or eliminate the use of non-tariff barriers in international trade".

Redesignate the current indicator (b) (ii) to (b) (iii).

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of the trade promotion and export development

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "human" with "economic" and the words "international business development" with "export potential".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the words "development programmes and policies" with "and export development programmes".

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), after the word "activities", insert "and increased number of proposals the on multilateral trading system prepared and implemented by country networks".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), replace the words "technical support" with "trade support".

Programme 11
Environment

161. At its 14th meeting, on 19 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 11)).

162. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

163. Support was expressed for programme 11 and its overall orientation.

164. The role of UNEP as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment as narrated in paragraph 11.2 was commended. The view was expressed that the exact role of UNEP in the United Nations needed to be clarified, while other views commended the clarity of the document and it was noted that if any subject required international consensus it was the field of environment.

165. Several views welcomed the UNEP initiative in clustering its medium-term strategy 2010-2013 around six cross-cutting priorities, on which the six subprogrammes of the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011 were based, in line with decision GC.SS/X/3 of the Governing Council of UNEP.

166. The view was expressed that the UNEP approach to strengthening its results-based management so as to become a more effective, efficient and results-focused entity would be very useful in the biennium 2010-2011.

167. Queries were raised regarding paragraph 11.5 on the references to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability and the Rome Declaration on Harmonization since they were not United Nations conferences. Clarification was also sought on the exclusion of reference to the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Clarification was sought on the role of UNEP in creating enabling environments at the national level for responding to climate change, including through the promotion of national legislative, economic and institutional frameworks referred to in paragraph 11.9. Clarification was also sought on the intention of UNEP in strengthening its regional offices during the biennium 2010-2011. The terms of General Assembly resolution 53/242 were recalled, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that, in accordance with its mandate, UNEP should not become involved in conflict identification, prevention or resolution. A query was raised on the public-awareness initiatives that were being undertaken by the programme.

168. The view was expressed that environmental governance discussed in paragraph 11.12 which also constituted subprogramme 4, was a concept still under discussion in the General Assembly, while another view was expressed that clear references should be made under the subprogramme to mandates and issues related to multilateral environmental agreements. The view was expressed that although the proposals did not raise questions on necessary cooperation between the subprogramme on environmental governance, in-depth review was required. UNEP support to United Nations system-wide coherence and cooperation in the field of the environment was welcomed, and the view was expressed that it would produce results for the current generation and generations to come.

169. The commitment of UNEP to integrate and mainstream gender equality and equity perspectives in all of its subprogrammes was commended. Clarification was sought on the manner in which UNEP would support ecosystem management as outlined in paragraph 11.11. Queries were raised concerning the methodology UNEP

used to measure results obtained and whether, in formulating its programme for the period 2010-2011, the lessons learned had been taken into account in arriving at the new measures.

170. Under subprogramme 1, clarification was sought on the method of measuring the achievement of integrating climate change adaptation. A query was also raised regarding paragraph 11.23 (b), in particular the role of UNEP in contributing to conflict prevention and peacebuilding by participating in peacebuilding processes and in United Nations-led peacemaking processes through addressing the environmental component. The view was expressed that subparagraph 11.22 (a) of the strategy of subprogramme 1 should be elaborated as it related to the role of UNEP in providing support to United Nations agencies so as to make the United Nations system climate neutral. The view was expressed that references should be made under subprogramme 1 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

171. With reference to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 53/242, the view was expressed that the strategy, set out in subprogramme 2, subparagraph 11.23 (b), relating to the contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding by participating in peacebuilding processes did not reflect the contribution made by UNEP to Member States nor the mandate of the UNEP medium-term strategy 2010-2013. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 2 should also concentrate on environmental security and coordination with other United Nations organizations. Views were also expressed that the conflict aspects of subprogramme 2 should be realigned with mandates given to UNEP, particularly the aspects of the strategy narrated under subparagraph 11.23 (b) on conflict prevention and peacebuilding which gave rise to controversial issues. Another view expressed that the water strategy should be incorporated in the subprogramme.

172. The view was expressed that the intended work of UNEP under subprogramme 3 in ecosystem management goes beyond its framework and the subject of an integrated approach to management of freshwater, terrestrial and coastal and marine systems is as yet undecided. The view was expressed that the strategy of the subprogramme lacks attention to the education factor of countries and regions in ecosystem management while another view expressed that a quantitative approach has been taken with respect to the indicators of achievement.

173. Under subprogramme 5, the view was expressed that the strategy does not note the synergies required in implementing the subprogrammes.

174. Under subprogramme 6, Resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, the view was expressed that the objective does not take into account the realities of developing countries and consideration should therefore be given to reflecting the idea of transfer in the subprogramme.

175. Some views were expressed stressing the importance to include more systematicaliy "lessons learned", as appropriate, in the strategies of subprogrammes.

176. Some delegations stressed the importance to promote and support the development and implementation of safer alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and to take this into account when strategies and indicators of achievements on harmful substances and hazardous waste are formulated.

Conclusions and recommendations

177. The Committee recognized UNEP as the principle actor in the field of environment and underlined the key role it should continue to play on the international scene to help in dealing with serious threats and challenges for the future of the planet and its natural resources, including climate change, sea level rise, the loss of biodiversity, desertification and natural disasters that affected all countries and all people.

178. The Committee welcomed the emphasis on furthering the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building and the recognition of South-South cooperation as one of the key mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

179. The Committee urged UNEP, as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility, to continue to give special attention to the needs of African countries, least developed countries and small island developing States.

180. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 11, Environment, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 11.5

Replace the second sentence with the following sentence:

> **"In that regard, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, other outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States provide a clear direction for the programme."**

Paragraph 11.9

In the first sentence, after the words "including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", insert the words "and its Kyoto Protocol".

Paragraph 11.13

Replace the paragraph with the following:

> **"UNEP will build national capacities to minimize threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of existing and potential natural and man-made disasters, and will raise awareness of conflict-related environmental risks within the context of General Assembly resolution 58/209, by adopting an integrated approach spanning three key operational pillars, namely, vulnerabilities and risk reduction, emergency response and recovery, and mainstreaming environment. Within those pillars, UNEP will emphasize the importance of addressing environmental risks and vulnerabilities as a prerequisite to sustainable development**

and will seek to integrate environmental management needs within recovery plans of the relevant United Nations actors."

Paragraph 11.16

In the third sentence, insert the words "and countries with economies in transition" after the words "developing countries".

Paragraph 11.20

In the first sentence, replace the words "environmental conflict prevention" with the words "early warning".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In the table heading for each subprogramme after the words "Expected accomplishments" insert the words "of the Secretariat".

Subprogramme 1
Climate change

Objective of the Organization

After the word "countries", insert the words "in particular developing countries".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (c), insert the words "and joint implementation mechanism".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (e), after the word "visits", insert the words "and downloads from".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.22

In the third sentence, after the words "including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", insert the words "and its Kyoto Protocol".

Paragraph 11.22 (a)

Replace the words "countries' transition" with the words "transition of countries, in particular developing countries,".

Replace the word "coalitions" with the word "partnerships".

Paragraph 11.22 (b)

After the word "countries", insert the words "in particular developing countries".

Subprogramme 2
Disasters and conflicts

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "conflicts and disasters" with the words "existing and potential natural and man-made disasters".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (a) with the following:

> **"Enhanced capacity of Member States in environmental management in order to contribute to natural and man-made disaster risk reduction."**

Replace accomplishment (b) with the following:

> **"Rapid and reliable environmental assessment following conflicts and disasters, as requested."**

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (ii), replace the word "mediate" with the word "address" and move the entire indicator to subprogramme 4 to be renumbered as "(c) (iv)".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.23 (a)

At the beginning of the subparagraph, insert the words "Within the existing mandates", and after the word "drylands", insert the words "and lands contaminated by radiation".

Paragraph 11.23 (a) (i)

Delete the words "and the prevention of conflicts between States and between communities".

Paragraph 11.23 (a) (ii)

Replace the words "Addressing acute environmental risks in disaster or post-conflict response operations to minimize" with the words "Assisting in addressing environmental risks in disaster or post-conflict response operations and providing early warning in minimizing."

Paragraph 11.23 (b)

Replace paragraph 11.23 (b) with the following:

> **"Upon request by Member States to provide early warning on environmental risk and data and expertise on sustainable management of transboundary and shared natural resources related to relevant initiatives led by the United Nations."**

Paragraph 11.23 (c)

After the words "global level", delete the words "such as the Peacebuilding Commission, the International Arctic Science Committee, UNDP and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction".

Subprogramme 3
Ecosystem management

Strategy

Paragraph 11.24

In the third sentence, after the word "entities", delete the words "within the context of delivering as one".

Subprogramme 4
Environmental governance

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), after the words "The United Nations system" insert the words "respecting the mandate of each entity, progressively realizes synergies and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), replace the words "being addressed" with the words "agreed upon and decided".

Add a new indicator (a) (iv) to read "Increased number of coordinated activities between the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP, under the umbrella of UNEP".

Add a new indicator (b) (ii) to read "Increased number of international organizations that consider the policy guidance of UNEP in the area of environment including the principles of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building".

Renumber existing indicator "(b)" as "(b) (i)" and move indicator "(a) (ii)" as revised from subprogramme 2 to this subprogramme and renumber as indicator "(c) (iv)".

In indicator (d) (ii), after the word "visits", insert the words "and downloads from".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.25 (a)

In the third sentence, after the words "effective implementation", insert the words "respecting the mandate of each entity".

Subprogramme 5
Harmful substances and hazardous waste

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator (c) (iii) to read, "Increased number of measures set in place to improve synergies between the multilateral environmental agreements relating to chemicals and waste".

Strategy

Paragraph 11.26 (c)

At the end of the paragraph, add the following sentence: "In line with UNEP Governing Council decision SS.X/1, the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the Conventions of Bâle, Rotterdam and Stockholm could contribute positively to the implementation of the principles defended by those Conventions for the management of harmful substances and hazardous waste. UNEP will continue to sustain the synergies process initiated on the matter between those three Conventions."

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

After resolution 61/230 in the first grouping of General Assembly resolutions, insert the following resolution:

"62/9 Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster".

Programme 12
Human settlements

181. At its 17th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 12)).

182. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

183. Appreciation was expressed for the presentation and content of the proposed programme plan for the period 2010-2011. The approval of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in April 2007 was welcomed. UN-Habitat was complemented on its coordination with other United Nations agencies, including UNEP.

184. The refinement of the proposed programme plan to ensure that it was aligned and consistent with the approved medium-term strategic and institutional plan was commended. Clarification was sought as to whether the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been taken into consideration in urban

planning. The five focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, namely, effective advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; participatory urban planning, management and governance; pro-poor land and housing; environmentally sound basic infrastructure and affordable services; and human settlements finance systems were welcomed. The sixth focus, excellence in management, was commended.

185. Reference was made to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in which the Office had raised the issue of the UN-Habitat programme being too broad and had advised that UN-Habitat should continue to focus on achievable goals within its limited resources. Concern was expressed that there were too many indicators of achievement in the biennial programme plan and that they were difficult to measure.

186. The increasing number of slum-dwellers referred to in paragraph 12.3 was acknowledged and the fact that in most developing countries the majority of the population lived in informal settlements was emphasized. The view was expressed that financing from the private sector usually focused on the middle- and high-income population and the programme needed to focus on financing shelter for low-income people. The strategy for improving the lives of the poor referred to in paragraph 12.8 (a) of the overall orientation was commended.

187. The view was expressed that the strength of UN-Habitat lay in its normative activities, advocacy and knowledge management in addressing the challenges of chaotic urbanization and they should be highlighted. UN-Habitat was commended for the global campaign on sustainable urbanization and a clarification was sought as to whether there were any concrete results.

188. In subprogramme 1, Shelter and sustainable human settlements development, clarification was sought with regard to the meaning of "fiscal and political decentralization" referred to in indicator of achievement (b) (i) and with regard to the phrase "the links with universities" contained in paragraph 12.11 (d). The strategy of advocacy work referred to in paragraph 12.11 (b) was welcomed.

189. The importance of subprogramme 2, Monitoring the Habitat Agenda, was emphasized. The inclusion of "mainstream gender and promote women's empowerment" in indicator of achievement (c) (i) was commended. The view was expressed that the realization of the Millennium Development Goals should be included in the programme plan for the next biennium.

190. Regarding subprogramme 3, Regional and technical cooperation, the view was expressed that UN-Habitat should draw on best practices from its technical cooperation activities to address specific urban problems.

191. In subprogramme 4, Human settlements financing, it was observed that the workplan for the biennium would concentrate on water and basic sanitation, and the view was expressed that that focus should be expressed in the objective. Clarification was sought as to what the new and innovative financing initiatives to leverage the contributions of communities were. The view was expressed that experimental activities referred to under the subprogramme should not be presented as the centre of activities, since the steering and monitoring committee was not in place; therefore, it was not clear what could be achieved.

192. The view was expressed that UN-Habitat needed to expand its environmental activities, given the degradation that accompanied rapid urbanization. The impact was especially notable with regard to the pollution of water and rivers, since the damage could be irreversible. The view was expressed that insufficient good practices were included in the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

193. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 12, Human settlements, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 12.4

In the fourth line, insert the words "including disabled people," after the words "disadvantaged groups,".

Paragraph 12.5

In the fourteenth and fifteenth lines, replace the words "in line with the ongoing United Nations reforms at the global and national levels," with "at the global and national levels, in line with the approved United Nations reforms,".

In the eighteenth line after the word "teams" delete the words "in line with the policy of One United Nations".

Subprogramme 1
Shelter and sustainable human settlements development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (d), at the end of the paragraph, add the words "and to promote a positive approach of foreseeable natural risk prevention".

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator of achievement:

"(e) (iv) Increased number of students trained by graduate-level institutions".

Subprogramme 2
Monitoring the Habitat Agenda

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words "Declaration targets" with the words "Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation".

Strategy

Paragraph 12.12 (a)

After "resolution 55/2", add the words "and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation".

Subprogramme 3
Regional and technical cooperation

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator of achievement (c) (ii), add the words "and verified".

Strategy

In paragraph 12.13 (a), replace the words "with the United Nations reform agenda, especially the One United Nations system at country level" with the words "with the approved United Nations reforms".

Subprogramme 4
Human settlements financing

Objective of the Organization

After the words "infrastructure and services", add the words "mainly water and sanitation,".

Strategy

In paragraph 12.14 (f), after the words "non-motorized transport", add the words "such as bicycles".

Programme 13
International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice

194. At its 13th meeting, on 19 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 13)).

195. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

196. Support was expressed for programme 13 of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 and for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. It was noted that the document presented a comprehensive approach to address the issues of drug control, crime and terrorism prevention.

197. Regret was expressed that, owing to modifications in the timetable of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, there was no opportunity for analytical review by the Commission of the proposed biennial programme plan,

which, however, had been circulated during the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in March and April 2008, respectively.

198. The attention paid to rule of law was welcomed. The importance of training programmes under subprogramme 1, Rule of law, was stressed, in particular for developing countries, especially the least developed countries. It was noted that legislative initiatives required strong multilateral cooperation. Clarification was sought as to how the Office monitored the use by Member States of the legal tools, best practices and lessons learned, and what method the Office used to receive feedback. The need to update legal tools and instruments was stressed.

199. Clarification was sought on the effectiveness of the alternative development programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as on the evaluation of observable changes in target beneficiaries and accountability of the Member States. A view was expressed that the number of countries in receipt of assistance provided by the Office was not a sufficient indicator of achievement.

200. Clarification was sought about how the programme would implement the strategy of the Office as well as about the criteria for the selection of legislative mandates.

201. It was noted that the importance of the issue of trafficking in persons, which was of high priority in the global agenda, was not sufficiently evident in the document. Clarification was sought about the extent to which the Office cooperated with law enforcement entities in different countries.

202. Particular importance was given to preventing drug abuse, as it undermined the human resources for development, in particular the youth. The envisaged establishment of the Office's subregional office in Tripoli was welcomed.

Conclusions and recommendations

203. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Throughout the programme, replace the word "terrorism" with "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".

Overall orientation

Paragraph 13.9

Delete the first sentence.

Subprogramme 1
Rule of law

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the words "application of" add "international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the

relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the provisions related to international cooperation in criminal matters". Delete the rest of the sentence.

In indicator of achievement (b) (iv), after the word "crime", insert the words ", drug trafficking". Replace the words "and corruption" with ", corruption and human trafficking".

In indicators of achievement (d) (i) and (ii), replace the word "Percentage" with "Increased number".

Strategy

Paragraph 13.15

In subparagraph (i), replace the words "Coordinating and collaborating" with "Facilitating coordination and collaboration"; after the words "regional and subregional levels", add ", including for the elaboration of global, regional and subregional plans of action to fight human trafficking".

Subprogramme 3
Prevention treatment and reintegration, and alternative development

Objective of the Organization

In the fourth line, replace the words "HIV/AIDS in the context of drug abuse" with "HIV/AIDS as related to injecting drug users".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), delete the words "including illicit crop cultivation" and replace the words "related to drug abuse" with "as related to injecting drug users".

Add a new expected accomplishment (e) to read: "(e) Enhanced capacity of Member States to foster and strengthen international cooperation based on the principle of shared responsibility in sustainable alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), replace the words "related to drug abuse" with "as related to injecting drug users".

In indicator of achievement (b) (iii), replace the words "alternative development" with "sustainable alternative development".

In indicator of achievement (b) (v), after the word "rehabilitation", insert ", including social reintegration,".

In indicator of achievement (c) (iii), replace the words "recovery/return of assets" with "judiciary cooperation, in particular the recovery/return of assets from corruption".

At the end of indicator of achievement (c) (iv), add the words ", and to insure the social rehabilitation of offenders".

Add a new indicator of achievement (c) (v) to read: "(c) (v) Enhanced capacities of transit countries in their fight against illicit drug trafficking".

Add a new indicator of achievement (e) (i) to read: "(e) (i) Increased number of Member States, in receipt of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime assistance, to design and implement sustainable alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, within their broader development context, aimed at preventing, reducing and eliminating the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, the coca bush and cannabis".

Add new indicator of achievement (e) (ii) to read: "(e) (ii) Increased awareness of and mainstreaming the issue of alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, among international organizations, international financial institutions and development networks".

Add new indicator of achievement (e) (iii) to read: "(e) (iii) Increased number of partnerships between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and relevant civil society entities and the private sector that promote Member States' capacity for collaborative activities in alternative development, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development".

Legislative mandates

Conventions

Under "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", delete the words "and its three Protocols" and "and 2001".

Under "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime", add the following:

"Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000, entry into force: 2003)";

"Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000, entry into force: 2004)";

"Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2001, entry into force: 2005)".

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

204. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 14)).

205. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

206. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme. It was noted with interest that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was taking advantage of lessons learned from implementation of the programme of work in prior bienniums, although the programme as narrated appeared ambitious, and therefore there was a need to concentrate on the activities that were attainable in the biennium 2010-2011. Clarification was sought as to how the challenges that were not overcome were taken into account in formulating the programme.

207. Support was also expressed for the priority given by ECA to support its subregional offices with a view to delivering and operating as subregional nodes for knowledge management and networking as well as meeting the specific development needs of each region. The view was expressed that, in view of the information provided in part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework that Africa was the only region currently at risk of not achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, programme 14, was necessary to assist African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that would lead to sustainable economic growth and social development. The view was also expressed that Africa needed the international community to meet the challenges it faced. The view was further expressed regarding the need to intensify efforts to achieve the Goals within a reasonable period of time and the United Nations was called upon to cooperate with other organizations, in particular the African Union, so that results achieved would be greater than expected. Moreover, the view was expressed that results achieved would be much better if there was stronger cooperation, in particular through training seminars and vocational preparation.

208. The progress made by ECA to focus efforts on achieving coherence between global and regional priorities was critical for avoiding duplication and would be beneficial for Member States in the region. A query was raised as to how ECA was assisting regional organizations to harmonize their work programmes. A query was also raised as to whether there were complementarities and cooperation with other regional organizations. Queries were also raised about the measures being taken by ECA in assisting Member States to strengthen their capacity, in particular in remedying or improving their energy needs. The view was expressed that agriculture was one of the critical areas in which ECA needed to strengthen its efforts.

209. The experience of ECA partnership with the African Union through strengthened collaboration and the joint United Nations-African Union Declaration, which provided the framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union and had enhanced the focus on promoting regional integration, was commended. The focus by ECA on meeting the special needs of Africa and emerging global challenges was welcomed, and ECA was urged to include the

current food crisis in its priorities since all indications showed that the current crisis would not be temporary and that Africa would be most affected by the challenge.

210. A query was raised about the impact of security concerns on subprogramme 2 and the possibility of including that area of focus in the subprogramme.

211. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 3 on the improvement of good governance practices to ensure participation in the development and governance processes and consolidate the foundations of sustainable development. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the instruments that supported Member States in monitoring and assessing progress towards good governance, such as the *African Governance Report* referred to under subprogramme 3. The view was also expressed that a report on training in the area of good governance should be included as an indicator of achievement under subprogramme 3.

212. The continuous mainstreaming of gender concerns in subprogramme 6 and across the other subprogrammes of the programme was welcomed. Support was expressed for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in national development policies and programmes. The view was expressed that the empowerment of women and the improvement of their living conditions were critical for Africa's success, which principles had also been enshrined by the African Union. Moreover, the promotion of the role of women in all activities was one of the long-term objectives of NEPAD.

213. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of ECA to adjust subprogramme 7 to increase effectiveness and efficiency in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

214. The strengthening of the statistical capacity of Member States, as envisaged in subprogramme 9, was also welcomed. Support was expressed for the strategy of subprogramme 9 regarding the provision of support to the working groups on the statistical harmonization of the Millennium Development Goals indicators, the convening of workshops and the provision of technical assistance.

215. Note was taken of the revision to subprogramme 10 and the effort to strengthen capacity to achieve poverty reduction in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through a focus on social development was welcomed. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 10 to strengthen national and regional capacity in meeting the Millennium Development Goals had been threatened by the recent challenges arising from the global food crisis and climate changes. The view was also expressed that although the strategy of the subprogramme would focus on the attainment of key human and social development priorities, such as HIV/AIDS, the issue of malaria should be included as well.

Conclusions and recommendations

216. **The Committee recognized the important role that ECA was playing in the implementation of NEPAD and welcomed the alignment of the Commission's overall objectives with the goals and priorities of the Partnership and its focus on the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements.**

217. The Committee urged ECA to add the current food price crisis to its priorities and devise strategies, in coordination with all role players, that would have a definite impact on food security for the poor and vulnerable population in Africa in order to avert a catastrophe and further setbacks in the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals.

218. The Committee stressed the need for a more accurate and results-oriented formulation of expected accomplishments as well as quantifiable indicators of achievement in the future strategic framework of the programme.

219. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modification:

Subprogramme 4
Information and science technology for development

Objective of the Organization

After the word "evaluation", add the words "including at the regional level".

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

220. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 15)).

221. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

222. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). A view was expressed on the lengthy discussions held among the ESCAP member States during the sixty-fourth session of the Commission in April 2008 and the positive results as reflected in the revisions contained in E/AC.51/2008/CRP.1.

223. The importance was expressed of sharpening the focus of the programme of work, striving for more balance in addressing the needs of the Commission's membership and enhancing cooperation with international and regional organizations, including those within the United Nations system, in order to ensure greater synergies and complementarity of work. The focus of the overall orientation, in particular as detailed in paragraph 15.8, was welcomed. The view was expressed regarding the need for further coordination of activities between ESCAP and other organizations to seek more coherence in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Clarification was sought on the extent of efforts taken and planned in the future to ensure greater cooperation and synergies between ESCAP and regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

224. The view was expressed that the overall orientation of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 was focused more on social aspects and that a balance with the economic dimension could have been sought.

225. Clarification was sought as to the concept of "inclusive and sustainable development" introduced in the overall orientation and in several subprogrammes of the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011.

226. The view was expressed that references to climate change and its impact in the region and to drought and desertification prevailing in the region had not been incorporated in the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011. The importance of their inclusion in some subprogrammes, in particular in subprogramme 4, Environment and development, was noted.

227. The great diversity and disparity in the region, as evidenced by the case of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, were observed. The view was expressed that a balanced approach was needed to ensure even development in the region.

228. Under subprogramme 4, Environment and development, it was observed that the approach to environmental issues was mainly focused on economic aspects. Clarification was sought as to the consideration given to sustainable development.

229. The new subprogramme 5, Information and communications technology and disaster risk reduction, in particular the focus on disaster risk reduction, was welcomed. Given that the Asian and Pacific region was particularly prone to natural disasters, it was emphasized that work in that area should be strengthened.

230. Questions were raised concerning the similarities of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the five components of subprogramme 8, Subregional activities for development.

Conclusions and recommendations

231. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 15.12

After the second sentence, add a sentence to read:

"ESCAP will pursue a balanced approach to addressing social, environmental and economic issues, including those related to trade, transport and infrastructure development, in order to promote sustainable growth and development".

Subprogramme 1
Macroeconomic policy and inclusive development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), after the words, "formulate strategies for achieving the", add the words "internationally agreed development goals, including the".

Subprogramme 3
Transport

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), delete the words "and safety" and, at the end of the sentence, add the words "as well as road safety".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c)(i), replace the words "transport safety" with "road safety".

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

232. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 16)).

233. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

234. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme, including the subregional work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

235. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme, in particular activities related to the gender dimension of development. The view was expressed that that dimension should be maintained and strengthened and that a methodology of the approach to be applied by ECE for its implementation should be identified.

236. Satisfaction was expressed that ECE technical cooperation activities were directed at countries of eastern and south-eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. The new expected accomplishment on trade and transport facilitation under subprogramme 2, Transport, was welcomed.

237. Under subprogramme 1, Environment, the view was expressed that it would have been desirable to include an indicator of achievement to reflect the increased number of actions taken to promote public access to environmental information, as contained in the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

238. The focus of the proposed subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, was welcomed. It was noted, in that connection, that an enhanced

reference in the subprogramme to new enterprises and emphasis on the increased number of new projects could have been useful. It was also observed that some proposed indicators of achievement for the proposed subprogramme could have been further refined.

239. The importance and relevance of subprogramme 3, Statistics, were emphasized. The view was expressed that international standards for statistics should continue to be formulated and be extended to an even wider audience.

240. The view was also expressed that certain elements of subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, seemed difficult to quantify.

241. Clarification was sought in reference to the work of the Commission in the light of system-wide coherence.

Conclusions and recommendations

242. The Committee stressed the importance of advancing the gender dimension related to the role of women in the economy and, in that regard, recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate consideration was given to such related issues.

243. The Committee expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in carrying out the activities to improve reliability and comparability of official statistics in subprogramme 3, Statistics, and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue and to intensify the development of standardization of statistical data, which was relevant to the work of the Organization throughout the United Nations system, and access to such data by the public.

244. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization

Replace the text with the following: "to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the ECE region".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a) (iii), after the words "Sound use of wood", add the words "for material and energy purposes".

Strategy

Replace paragraphs 16.36 and 16.37 with the following and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"16.36 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Timber Section of the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on

policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practices and joint efforts to measure progress. It will provide a platform for topical discussions, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. Moreover, it will promote the role of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

"16.37 The subprogramme will promote the sustainable management of forests as well as the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy, and forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2010-2011 will be guided by the outcome of the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which placed emphasis through the Warsaw resolutions on "forests, wood and energy" and cross-sector coordination, including "forests and water." This has been affirmed by the outcome of the 2007-2008 strategic review, which placed major emphasis on climate change, bioenergy and wood mobilization. The importance of sustainable forest management, sector policies and institutions, forest products markets and cross-sectoral cooperation has been reaffirmed.

"16.38 While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, special attention will be paid to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region to implement sustainable forest management through capacity-building activities and by promoting their involvement in international activities in the region.

"16.39 As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will carry out its work in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry.

"16.40 To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products, that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social points of view, it is necessary to maintain a good balance between those three aspects, based on a strong consensus about goals and methods among all stakeholders and to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation, and interregional cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, through communication, the sharing of experience and the defining of standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management."

Legislative mandates

Under "General Assembly resolutions", add "62/98 Non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests".

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

245. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 17) and Corr.1).

246. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

247. Full support was expressed for programme 17 and all its subprogrammes. The work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as a centre of excellence was also commended. It was observed that ECLAC played an important role in advancing towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The important contribution of ECLAC in the areas of poverty eradication, enhancing regional integration and social cohesion, and strengthening gender mainstreaming in public policies was also emphasized. The vulnerability of the Latin American and Caribbean region to natural disasters and the need for adaptation and mitigation programmes in relation to climate change were acknowledged.

248. The view was expressed that the inclusion of South-South cooperation in the programme plan was important. The Committee was informed that one of the mandates that had emerged from the thirty-second session of ECLAC, held in Santo Domingo from 9 to 13 June 2008, was to develop a methodology to measure South-South cooperation activities and an online repository of needs and available capacities for that type of cooperation in the region, avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity with other international organizations, such as the Latin American Economic System. Furthermore, the view was expressed that ECLAC should focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy for sustainable development and on building consensus on social cohesion in Ibero-America, with special attention to migration.

249. Clarification was sought as to how ECLAC would deal with the food crisis and its impact on the region. The Committee was informed that that issue was being fully incorporated in the current work programme of ECLAC and had also been addressed at the thirty-second session of the Commission. An organizational unit of ECLAC dealing specifically with agriculture that had partial responsibility for implementing subprogramme 2 was collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to analyse the regional dimension of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, adopted on 5 June 2008, in preparation for a regional forum to discuss practices and policies to tackle the impact of the food crisis. Clarification was also sought as to whether the difficulties in raising extrabudgetary resources from certain Bretton Woods institutions encountered in the period 2006-2007 would affect the work programme for the period 2010-2011. Clarification was further sought with regard to the incorporation in the planning process of lessons learned from successful policy implementation and with regard to the utilization of information and communications technology in tackling natural disasters.

250. It was observed that greater cooperation and coordination were foreseen in the programme plan, and clarification was sought as to how they would be achieved. Additionally, most indicators of achievement included the phrase "in line with ECLAC recommendations", and clarification was sought as to how those recommendations would be disseminated and communicated to member countries.

251. With regard to subprogramme 2, indicator of achievement (a) (ii), the question was raised as to how member countries could benefit from "the technical cooperation activities organized by the subprogramme".

252. Support was expressed for subprogramme 4, Social development and equity, and reference to the need for a specific approach that would take account of the diversity of countries in the region. The view was also expressed that the strategy of the subprogramme complied with the agreement on the three pillars of sustainable development contained in the World Summit Outcome.

253. The mainstreaming of a gender perspective in regional development, as reflected in subprogramme 5, was commended, including promotion of the human rights of men and women. Clarification was sought as to whether there was coordination between ECLAC and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

254. Under subprogramme 6, Population and development, the inclusion of international migration was welcomed.

255. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion in subprogramme 8 of an expected accomplishment relating to enhanced capacity of the Governments of the region and other stakeholders to follow up the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

256. Support was expressed for subprogramme 12, Subregional activities in the Caribbean, and clarification was sought as to how ECLAC could strengthen national capacity to mitigate natural disasters. The Committee was informed that ECLAC had a focal point at its subregional headquarters in Mexico to coordinate the work of the ECLAC system in assessing the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters in the region and advising on risk and vulnerability reduction. ECLAC also had a network of multidisciplinary professionals, ready to respond to requests for assessment and to prepare recovery projects. Training was provided by ECLAC staff to professionals, experts and national and subregional authorities in the use of the ECLAC methodology to assess the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters.

Conclusions and recommendations

257. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

258. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 18)).

259. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

260. Support was expressed for the programme and appreciation was expressed for the important role that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) played in the region by assisting member countries in facing development challenges and formulating durable economic solutions under the prevailing conditions of political instability in the region.

261. A query was raised as to the legislative mandate of the programme to deal with issues relating to good governance. In addition, clarification was sought with regard to the specific meaning of "Promoting integrated social policies".

262. With regard to subprogramme 1, it was observed that the narrative needed to be more articulate in dealing with fragile ecosystems and the challenges facing the region owing to water scarcity and conflicts. Furthermore, concern was expressed that there was no reference to the situation and development activities in the occupied territories. The view was expressed that consideration should be given to including the challenges relating to desertification, drought and pollution in the activities of the subprogramme.

263. The view was also expressed that consideration should be given to highlighting a gender perspective in conflict situations.

264. The importance of subprogramme 7, Conflict mitigation and development, was stressed, in particular the issue of occupation, which was an obstacle to development.

Conclusions and recommendations

265. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 18.4

Replace the first three sentences with the following:

"The region has made varied progress in social development, especially in the education and health sectors. Some countries have developed mechanisms to invest surplus capital savings resulting from high energy prices, which have contributed to the acceleration of economic growth and social development. Political instability,

foreign occupation and lack of adequate reform continue to influence economic performance in the countries of the region."

Paragraph 18.5

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"The Arab Ministerial Declaration stated that, while emphasizing that developed countries should fulfil their commitment to supporting developing countries, including Arab countries, in meeting climate change challenges, the Declaration affirmed the commitment of the Ministers, inter alia, to include policies to deal with climate change issues in all sectors within national and regional policies for sustainable development in a manner that harmonized with sustained economic growth and efforts to eradicate poverty, and to adopt national and regional action plans dealing with climate change."

Paragraph 18.7

After the first sentence, insert the following:

"Monitoring of the effects of foreign occupation on economic and social development in the region is becoming increasingly important."

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "environmentally sound technology", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), before the word "institutions", insert the words "new and/or existing".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), before the words "environmentally sound technology", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.12

In the fourth sentence, after the words "in the water", insert the word "energy".

Paragraph 18.14

At the end of subparagraph (a), add the words "especially disadvantaged groups".

Paragraph 18.15

Before the words "environmentally sound technologies", insert the words "appropriate and affordable".

Paragraph 18.16

After the words "the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia", insert the words "the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change", and before the words "secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity" delete the words "United Nations".

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "the youth bulge, migration and good urban governance", insert the words "demographic changes with particular emphasis on".

In expected accomplishment (c), after the words "Enhanced participation of civil society", insert the words "in social policy dialogue and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), before the words "the youth bulge and migration", insert the words "demographic changes, with particular emphasis on".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.19

At the end of the last sentence, add the following:

"while recognizing the role of social safety nets in maintaining social and political stability".

Paragraph 18.20

At the end of the first sentence, add the words: "including the finding of mechanisms to finance social development".

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the word "number" with the word "percentage".

In indicator of achievement (d) (ii), replace the phrase "based on ESCWA recommendations" with the phrase "with ESCWA assistance upon the request of member countries".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.23

At the end of subparagraph (a), add the words "including, but not limited to, diversification of production and knowledge-based economies".

Paragraph 18.25

In the first sentence, replace the words "road, rail, maritime and multimodal transport agreements" with the words "road, rail and maritime agreements".

After the first sentence, insert the following:

"The subprogramme will work closely with the League of Arab States for the development and implementation of a regional multimodal transport agreement for the Arab region in anticipation of the finalization of the draft convention on contracts for the international carriage of goods wholly or partly by sea (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law draft convention)."

Paragraph 18.26

In the first sentence, replace the words "through South-South cooperation" with the words "in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), with special emphasis on South-South cooperation".

Paragraph 18.27

In the last sentence, after the words "governmental and non-governmental bodies", insert the words "including GCC and the League of Arab States".

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the word "sector" with the words "production and service sectors".

At the end of expected accomplishment (a), add the phrase "with special focus on the provision of e-services in Arabic".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the word "sector" with the words "production and service sectors".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.28

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Plan of Action

and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, in harmonization with the Arab ICT Strategy of the League of Arab States, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action in order to build an inclusive, people-centred information society that is based on productive national ICT sectors."

Paragraph 18.30

In the first sentence, after the words "national capacity", insert the words "with special focus on human resources development".

Paragraph 18.32

At the end of the first sentence, replace the phrase "fund-raising efforts aimed at harnessing ICT for socio-economic development" with the phrase "efforts aimed at harnessing science and technology, particularly ICT, for socio-economic development".

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

In expected accomplishment (b), before the words "gender-disaggregated data", insert the words "Millennium Development Goal indicators and".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the words "national statistical offices", add the words "with ESCWA assistance".

Add the following new indicator of achievement:

"(b) (iii) Increased percentage of statistical experts who applied the knowledge and skills gained through ESCWA training at the national level".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.33

At the end of the last sentence, replace the words "the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements" with the words "the Istanbul Declaration on measuring the progress of societies".

Paragraph 18.34

In item (b), replace the words "produce and disseminate" with the words "produce, analyse and disseminate".

Paragraph 18.35

In the second sentence of subparagraph (c), replace the words "where statistics are not fully developed" with the words "that are less statistically developed".

Paragraph 18.36

Replace the first sentence with the following:

> **"In the second area, the subprogramme will continue upgrading the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices in increasing the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic statistics, and in adopting new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The subprogramme will contribute to the production of accurate, relevant and timely trade in goods and services statistics and sectoral statistics, and the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993 and its revision, with a special focus on the informal sector and the system of quarterly national accounts."**

At the end of the last sentence, insert the phrase "and the identification of regional approaches to measure societal progress that complement the traditional Millennium Development Goal monitoring framework".

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator (b) (i) with the following:

> **"(b) (i) Increased number of voluntary measures taken by member countries, with ESCWA assistance provided in response to their request, to review and adjust laws in conformity with the Convention".**

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the words "local media interventions", insert the words "with ESCWA assistance".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.39

In the third sentence, after the word "has" and before the word "deteriorated", delete the word "further". After the word "deteriorated", insert the words "in some countries of the region".

Paragraph 18.41

Replace the last sentence with the following: "In response to the expressed needs of member countries, the subprogramme will aim to

enhance the capacity of those stakeholders to address critical issues and take concrete measures in that regard."

Paragraph 18.42

In the last sentence, after the words "Arab Women Organization" delete the words "of Jordan".

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

Strategy

Paragraph 18.43

Replace the existing paragraph with the following:

"The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues. Ongoing conflicts or political tensions in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen involving the competing interests of regional and international dynamics have profoundly affected stability as well as reversed development in a number of member countries. Those challenges are coupled with the slow development of democratic public institutions and application of human rights and civic standards. That situation continues to create a host of social, economic and political challenges, including growing inter- and intra-community tensions, the continuous influx of displaced persons and the rise of non-State actors in a number of member countries. The combination of those factors is likely to negatively affect the future of the region's youth and to pose serious impediments to civic and public actors in addressing challenges in the spheres of good governance and the environment, including the dangers posed by the scarcity of water and global warming."

Paragraph 18.44

In item (b), replace the words "civic values" with the words "values of citizenship".

Paragraph 18.45

In the second sentence, after the words "unleashed by conflict", insert the word "occupation".

In the penultimate sentence, replace the words "conflict areas" with the words "conflict and occupation".

Paragraph 18.46

Replace the first sentence with the following:

"In the second area, the subprogramme will explore the application of principles of good governance, based on the internationally agreed upon human rights principles, including values of citizenship, while taking due consideration of the region's historical and cultural specificities."

In the second sentence, replace the words "civic values" with the words "values of citizenship".

Programme 19
Human rights

266. At its 10th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 19)).

267. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

268. Support was expressed for the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 19, Human rights. Support was also expressed for the implementation of the human rights reform called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the independence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Appreciation was expressed for the activities carried out under the programme to support States in the realization of human rights.

269. The view was expressed that the objectives of the programme as reflected in the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011 appeared to go beyond the two-year period. Another view was expressed that some aspects of the 2010-2011 biennial programme plan did not account for some important aspects of the current and prior biennial programme plans. Views were expressed that the legislative mandates of the programme were extensive and should guide the formulation of the biennial programme plan, while other views were expressed that some aspects of the biennial programme plan, such as the "rights-based approach", had not been endorsed by intergovernmental bodies.

270. The inclusion of support for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council was welcomed. Views were expressed that the narratives of the programme lent credence to the establishment two years ago of the Human Rights Council, which had consolidated its place in the United Nations and was contributing to the effectiveness of the United Nations system, but needed to deepen its contribution in the world. A number of views were expressed that references should be included in the plan to the implementation of the outcome of the Durban Review Conference.

271. Questions were raised regarding measures in place to redress the imbalance in the geographical distribution of staff at the Professional and higher levels within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) referred to in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2007/8). Information was also requested on the measures taken by OHCHR to enhance the geographical diversity of the Office and its field presences.

272. Queries were raised on the mechanisms for the involvement of Member States in the review of the draft programme of work and associated budget requirements for human rights activities in the light of priorities established by the Human Rights Council.

273. The view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement of programme 19 were based on quantitative measures; they also should include qualitative measures. The view was expressed that several indicators of achievement appeared to measure the activities of Member States but the basic task at hand was to gauge the work of OHCHR and the assistance it rendered to Member States.

274. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 1 A, Human rights mainstreaming, was vague and should be reworded in line with the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The inclusion of "gender dimension" in the objective of subprogramme 1 A was welcomed; however, it was pointed out that such issues should also be reflected in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the subprogramme. Clarification was sought concerning the integration of a human rights perspective into United Nations programmes and activities in the rule-of-law area, referred to in paragraph 19.9 (a). The view was expressed that the emphasis in paragraph 19.9 (c) on promoting the practical integration of human rights into development programmes should not be used as a pretext for conditionality of development assistance.

275. Views were expressed that the alleviation of poverty, technical advice, networking, aid and trade had all become extremely important and concerned the lives of many people; the objective of subprogramme 1 B, Right to development, was not clearly stated and difficulties might be encountered in implementing the subprogramme. Views were also expressed that the right to development should be promoted and should receive appropriate attention.

276. A query was raised as to the meaning of the phrase "democracy mechanisms" in expected accomplishment (e) under subprogramme 1 C, Research and analysis. The view was expressed that it was not clear on what basis OHCHR would monitor the promotion and the implementation of human rights activities referred to in expected accomplishment (f) under subprogramme 1 C; it appeared that OHCHR would go beyond its mandate. The view was expressed that the text of expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 1 C should be that contained in the biennial programme plan for 2008-2009, with the addition of the word "enforced" after the words "victims of" to take into account the language of General Assembly resolution 61/177. The view was also expressed that the inclusion of the phrase "persons with disabilities" was a clear indication of adherence to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol. Another view was expressed to the effect that expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 1 C was weak in view of the Durban Review Conference.

277. With regard to subprogramme 2, the view was expressed that the reference to the United Nations in the objective should be deleted. A query was raised regarding the phrase "international and national actors" in expected accomplishment (c).

278. The view was expressed that the reference in the objective of subprogramme 3 to "efforts" of the Secretariat was weak. Clarification was sought as to the meaning of the phrase "protection of" in the objective. With regard to subprogramme 3, information was sought on the OHCHR field and country offices and their relationship to peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions, including information on resources dedicated to such activities.

279. Queries were raised as to the rationale for the consolidation of all the United Nations human rights treaty bodies under subprogramme 2. Clarification was also

sought on the consolidated organizational support to be provided to the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms under subprogramme 4. The view was also expressed that there appeared to be duplication in the mandates of subprogramme 4. Clarification was sought on how to avoid such duplication.

280. Although the Committee had an exchange of views, several delegations expressed regret that, owing to shortage of time, it was not possible to review the amendments proposed by delegations.

Conclusions and recommendations

281. **The Committee recommended that, owing to shortage of time, the Chairman of the forty-eighth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination transmit the conclusions on and amendments proposed to programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, to the Chairman of the Third Committee at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.**

282. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate programme 19, Human rights, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, to the Third Committee for its review and action, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**

Programme 20
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

283. At its 11th meeting, on 18 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 20, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 20)).

284. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

285. Appreciation was expressed for the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011, in particular for the simplicity of the document, which clearly synthesizes the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The leadership of the Office in providing for the protection of refugees, seeking a permanent solution to their problem and ensuring assistance for them was also commended.

286. The view was expressed that preventing the causes of forced population movements, as mentioned in paragraph 20.4 (a) of the proposed biennial programme plan, should be addressed by others who may have more of a mandate for prevention. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the phrase "sustainability of return" would capture the concept better than the phrase "mitigating and preventing the causes" in that paragraph.

287. Clarification was sought on how UNHCR develops contingency planning and emergency preparedness, as mentioned in paragraph 20.4 (e), and on its cooperation and collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system to ensure a

systematic and organized approach. It was also observed that the 10-point plan of action developed in the context of the Mediterranean region could be reviewed by the Executive Committee to consider its applicability in other regions.

288. Clarification was sought on the meaning of "environmental considerations" referred to in paragraph 20.4 (f).

289. The view was expressed that in relation to paragraph 20.7, there was no related indicator of achievement with regard to the monitoring of the observance by States of internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees.

290. With respect to "mixed migration movements" referred to in paragraph 20.8, the view was expressed that UNHCR had no mandate in relation to some categories of persons, giving rise to the question of how to tailor solutions. Clarification was sought regarding the methodology used for determining "mixed migration".

291. The effort to mainstream policies and guidelines relating to the protection needs of refugee women, children and adolescents referred to in paragraph 20.9; the improvement in results-based budgeting and the improved demographic data deriving from enhanced registration tools; and the use of standards and indicators for UNHCR assistance sectors were welcomed.

292. The view was expressed that the participatory approach mentioned in paragraph 20.11 had improved the quality of UNHCR assistance programmes and that it should be explicitly recognized that that approach might also involve host countries and the members of the Executive Committee of UNHCR.

293. The view was expressed that the phrase "persons of concern" was too vague and inaccurate and should be better defined.

294. With regard to expected accomplishment (b), it was found to be limiting to highlight, in terms of standards, one conclusion of the Executive Committee, and clarification was sought as to how to measure compliance with regard to the Executive Committee's conclusions on women and girls at risk and on children at risk. Concerning expected accomplishment (c), a specific reference to the protection of refugees should be included, and the view was expressed that the indicators of achievement should be rearranged so that the current indicator (ii) came first, followed by the current (i) and (iii).

Conclusions and recommendations

295. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 20, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

296. At its 10th meeting, on 17 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 21)).

297. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

298. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme and work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and settlement of the Middle East question was expressed.

299. Clarifications were sought concerning the overall orientation, in particular paragraphs 21.3 and 21.5, of the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 as compared to the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The view was expressed that the previous formulation of the text of the biennial programme plan provided a fuller and clearer explanation of the orientation of the programme.

300. It was observed that the reference to "increased access to educational facilities" contained in expected accomplishment (a) of subprogramme 1, Education, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009 had been changed to "increased coverage" in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011. The view was expressed that the previous formulation provided a fuller and clearer explanation.

301. Under subprogramme 2, Health, the view was expressed that some aspects of the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, notably three expected accomplishments, had not been included in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011. Further, under the strategy, clarification was sought with regard to the deletion in the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011 of the phrase "improving the efficiency of the distribution of food aid" contained in the approved biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. The view was expressed that the previous formulation provided a fuller and clearer explanation.

302. The view was expressed that the list of legislative mandates applicable to the programme required updating to include resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during its sixty-second session.

Conclusions and recommendations

303. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the efforts of UNRWA to rationalize its action, establish its priorities and strengthen its coordination with the other international and local humanitarian actors.**

304. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.5

In the first sentence, replace the words "as a result of international and internal conflict" with the words "within its areas of operations as a result of conflicts, including military operations".

Paragraph 21.6

In the second sentence, before the word "responses", insert the words "programming, operation and advocacy".

Subprogramme 1
Education

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), after the word "coverage" insert the words "and access to educational facilities".

Subprogramme 2
Health

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (d) reading:

"(d) Streamlined health policies and service standards to conform with those of the host authorities".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (d) reading:

"(d) Strengthened and improved quality of partnership agreements and joint programmes with the host authorities".

Strategy

In paragraph 21.9 (d), replace the words "and integrating a pro-poor, gender-responsive and human rights-based approach" with the words "and integrating a pro-poor, gender-responsive approach and respect for human rights".

In paragraph 21.9 (e), before the word "health" insert the word "long-term"; after the words "health consequences", insert the words "such as psychological trauma"; and replace the word "crises" with "crisis".

Subprogramme 3
Relief and social services

Strategy

Replace paragraph 21.10 (f) with the following:

"(f) Promoting the institutional capacity of community-based organizations through training and technical assistance to enhance refugee participation in the formulation and implementation of social services for vulnerable groups in their communities."

In paragraph 21.10, add a new subparagraph (i) reading:

"(i) Improving the efficiency of the distribution of food aid."

Subprogramme 4
Microfinance and microenterprise

Objective of the Organization

Replace the words "To improve" with the words "To continue striving towards an enhanced coordinating role vis-à-vis alternative service providers, with the aim of improving".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (a) reading:

"(a) Continued interaction with alternative service providers"

and redesignate the subsequent expected accomplishments accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

Add the following new indicator of achievement (a):

"(a) Number of interactions with alternative service providers"

and redesignate the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Legislative mandates

In the list of General Assembly resolutions, replace the numbers "61/112" with "62/102"; replace "61/113" with "62/103"; and replace "61/114" with "62/104".

Programme 22
Humanitarian assistance

305. At its 17th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 22)).

306. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

307. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

308. Clarification was sought on the distribution of work between the offices in Geneva and New York, the transition from relief to recovery, the cluster approach and the coordination mechanisms between all actors involved in humanitarian assistance, the impact of the current mandate review on the development of the proposed biennial programme plan and how the concept of accountability was reflected in the plan. The view was expressed that extrabudgetary and regular budget activities needed to be well coordinated so as not to counter one another. Concern was expressed about how environmental effects would have am impact on rehabilitation and recovery following natural disasters.

309. Clarification was also sought on the concept of human security, the basis for the creation of the Human Security Unit and the Unit's activities.

310. The view was expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

311. Concern was expressed about the development and promotion of a common policy on humanitarian issues given that each humanitarian situation was different. The view was expressed that collaboration with national authorities and regional and subregional organizations was crucial for the success of the response to humanitarian crises. The view was also expressed that national ownership in any response to natural disasters was crucial for a well-coordinated international and local response.

312. Regret was expressed that no reference had been made in the document to the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in humanitarian operations. Concern was expressed about crimes against aid workers, which rendered the situation of civilians worse. Concern was also expressed that, in spite of the importance of the dissemination of information through the Internet, ReliefWeb was available only in English.

313. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on General Assembly resolution 46/182, which was the basis for the activities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations humanitarian assistance. Concern was expressed that some of the activities undertaken by the Office were beyond its mandates. Concern was also expressed that the cluster approach was included and yet was an issue still under discussion among Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

314. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 22.2

In the last sentence, replace the word "response" with "humanitarian assistance".

At the end of the last sentence, insert the words "in accordance with its respective mandates".

Paragraph 22.3

In the third sentence, replace the words "the clusters" with "all areas".

Subprogramme 1
Policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), delete the words "and policy responses".

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

In the title of the subprogramme, replace the word "action" with "assistance".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the words "strategies for emergency response" with "humanitarian assistance".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c), after the words "instances where the", add "particular".

Strategy

Paragraph 22.9

Delete the words "in countries at risk for crisis" and replace the words "identified through" with "based on".

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and resolution 58/114".

Paragraph 22.10

At the end of the paragraph, add the sentence "The Division will also provide support for the strengthening of the cooperation between assisting and recipient countries".

Paragraph 22.11

At the beginning of the second sentence, add the words "In this regard"; after the words "United Nations agencies", add "Member States"; after the words "non-governmental organizations", add "and relevant authorities"; and delete the words "Member States, regional parliamentarians".

In the seventh sentence, replace the words "dialogue and monitoring" with "dialogue and follow-up"; and before the word "donors", add "Member States and other".

In the thirteenth sentence, replace the words "systematic, structured and well-managed humanitarian response system" with "strengthened, structured and well-managed mechanisms of coordination for humanitarian response".

Paragraph 22.12

Before the word "agenda", delete "reform"; after the words "humanitarian coordinators include", delete "policy and"; replace the words "leading in-country efforts to apply the principles and the modalities" with "the development"; after the words "cluster approach", add "while taking into account ongoing intergovernmental discussions"; before the words "ensure that all of its field staff", add "in this regard"; after the words "clusters at the field level", add "as appropriate"; at the end of the paragraph, replace the words "and the cluster leads, the appropriate and most efficient implementation of the cluster approach" with "to provide more information on its implementation".

Subprogramme 3
Natural disaster reduction

Strategy

Paragraph 22.16

In the third sentence, replace the words "high-risk countries" with the words "disaster-prone countries".

Subprogramme 4
Emergency support services

Strategy

Paragraph 22.18

In the first sentence, replace the words "the development and strengthening of the response capacities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs" with "the development and strengthening of the capacities for coordination of humanitarian response of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs".

Paragraph 22.19

In the first sentence, replace the words "humanitarian and other partners" with "relevant partners"; after the words "intergovernmental and", add "relevant"; after the words "military-military coordination", add "upon the request of Member States"; and replace the words "inter alia, through" with "by implementing".

Subprogramme 5
Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy

Strategy

Paragraph 22.21

In the first sentence, after the words "humanitarian principles", add "as set out in resolutions 46/182 and 58/114".

Paragraph 22.23

In the last sentence, replace the words "standards and practices for humanitarian information management, ultimately working towards" with "tools for".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

58/114	**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**
60/124	**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

and the following Security Council resolution:

1674 (2006)	**Protection of civilians in armed conflict**

Programme 23
Public information

315. At its 14th meeting, on 19 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 23, Public information, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 23) and Corr.1).

316. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

317. General support was expressed for the work of the programme and its three subprogrammes. It was also noted that the Department of Public Information, as the voice of the United Nations, plays an important role in achieving the greatest public impact and reaching the global audience.

318. While recognizing the importance of climate change, it was stressed that the three pillars of the Organization are development, peace and security, and human rights. In that regard, concern was expressed about the reference made to climate change in paragraph 23.2, as it was pointed out that the theme "climate change" should fall under the broader area of sustainable development in the United Nations.

319. Strong support was expressed for multilingualism, and the need for equal treatment of all six official languages was emphasized. Concern was expressed regarding the unequal treatment of the six official languages on the United Nations websites. A similar view was expressed regarding United Nations press releases, which should be made available in all official languages. With regard to news and information products, the view was expressed that the multiple language needs of the recipients should be balanced with the need to provide high-quality and timely information.

320. It was also pointed out that the use of local languages should be strengthened in order to reach the largest audience worldwide. The use of local languages was strongly encouraged as a means to establish two-way information-sharing and communication between countries and the United Nations. In particular, the importance of the Portuguese community in the United Nations and worldwide was stressed, and it was hoped that the Department of Public Information would take into account that large audience as part of its programme of work.

321. The important role played by the United Nations information centres as an information source in local languages was recognized. In particular, the information centre in Rio de Janeiro was commended and the proposal of Angola to host a United Nations information centre in Luanda was recalled. It was also noted that while the United Nations information centres provided effective and localized information services in the field, they failed to meet the growing demand for services owing to resources constraints.

322. The role of partners in multiplying and amplifying the Department's messages was recognized and the Department was encouraged to continue to focus on youth and educators. The Department was called on to deepen its cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Support was expressed for the annual programme impact review and the strengthening of evaluation capacities.

Conclusions and recommendations

323. **The Committee underlined the importance of promoting global awareness and enhancing understanding of the work, image and issues of the United Nations and recommended that the General Assembly encourage the Department of Public Information to continue to provide Member States on a regular basis with detailed information and statistical data regarding the evolution and the impact of its activities.**

324. **The Committee stressed the importance of making appropriate use of all the official languages of the United Nations in all activities of the Department of Public Information, including news services.**

325. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 23, Public information, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the modifications below:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 23.2

Replace the second sentence with the following: "To this end, using the Millennium Declaration as its guide, the Department will focus on themes in support of the three pillars of the Organization: development, peace and security, and human rights, including priority themes such as peacekeeping, climate change, and food security".

After the second sentence, insert a new sentence reading: "The Department will continue to provide support for the dissemination of information pertaining to United Nations initiatives, including dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace".

Replace the words "Within these four broad priority themes" with the words "Within these themes and initiatives".

Subprogramme 1
Strategic communications services

Strategy

Paragraph 23.7

In the first sentence, replace the words "in official languages and local" with "bearing in mind the full priority of the official languages as well as local".

Legislative mandates

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

60/4	**Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations**
61/45	**International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010**
61/266	**Multilingualism**
62/236	**Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009**

Programme 24
Management and support services

326. At its 12th meeting, on 18 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 24, Management and support services, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 24)).

327. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

328. The programme was considered one of the most important ones. Views were expressed in support of the programme and the important role it played in providing all critical support and services in the delivery of the work programme of the Organization. The importance of the effective and efficient functioning of the financial, human resources and support services was emphasized. Support was expressed for the incorporation of issues, such as accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, timeliness and transparency, in the proposed biennial programme plan. It was noted that accountability had been given greater emphasis and integrated into the programme and that the Department of Management would support the management reform and lead efforts on reform. Accountability at a senior level was considered an important issue and needed monitoring. At the same time it was observed that some of the indicators of achievement under various subprogrammes were generic and needed further refinement so as to make them specific, quantifiable and measurable.

329. It was indicated that all duty stations should be viewed equally in terms of resource allocations and management. The view was expressed that specific circumstances of duty stations needed to be reflected. The medical services in support of staff health and fitness provided by the Medical Service was appreciated and considered important, and in that regard the view was expressed that such services should be available equally in all duty stations.

330. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the informative and comprehensive report on management and support services. It commended the Secretariat for its ongoing efforts to improve service delivery to Member States and human resource management.

331. The Committee also expressed support for the efforts by the Secretariat to streamline service delivery and human resource management, including improvement in the conditions of staff members.

332. The Committee also urged the Secretariat to continue to pay particular attention to gender parity with regard to recruitment and the promotion of staff and to have such demographics reflected throughout the Organization. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to meet that target.

333. The Committee urged the Secretariat to continue to recruit staff from developing countries, especially from underrepresented countries. It emphasized the need for that target to be met.

334. The Committee expressed concern about the insufficient involvement of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Organization's procurement activities. It urged the Secretariat to make a greater effort to broaden the vendor base from developing countries.

335. Under the management services component of subprogramme 1, Management services, administration of justice and services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination, it was emphasized that without good management, the work of the Organization would be adversely affected. An optimistic view was expressed that the new system of administration of justice would operate effectively, efficiently and in a timely and transparent manner, and produce good results.

336. Regarding subprogramme 2, Programme planning, budget and accounts, simplification of administrative processes and sharing of experiences and lessons learned among the duty stations were stressed. The view was expressed that some of the indicators were rather general and difficult to measure, and that performance indicators to measure the implementation of the budget were necessary. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 2 (b), Financial services relating to peacekeeping operations, the indicator of achievement relating to submission of budget and performance reports within deadlines should be included.

337. With regard to subprogramme 3, Human resources management, views were expressed in support of the policy on mobility, the efforts to improve recruitment, and sharing of experiences and tools among duty stations and organizations. A detailed strategic plan for mobility and the need for the Organization to know the kinds of skills required was essential.

338. The observation was made that the 174 days needed for recruitment could be due to lack of familiarity of a programme manager with policies and tools. It was

indicated that the experience of recruitment in Vienna, where the period for recruitment was shorter, should be followed in other duty stations.

339. The incorporation of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement regarding geographical representation and gender balance in the recruitment of staff, especially from unrepresented and underrepresented countries, was appreciated. The view was expressed, however, that indicators quantifying and measuring levels of staff positions by geographic regions was required. The view was expressed that the diversity of staff in the Secretariat needed to be reflected in the strategic framework for subprogramme 3.

340. Concerning subprogramme 4, Support services, the importance of vendors' access to and participation in United Nations procurement, as well as the need to further improve access of vendors from developing countries, was emphasized. Appreciation was expressed for the incorporation of accomplishments and indicators relating to participation by vendors in United Nations procurement. At the same time, it was recognized that issues of concern regarding procurement needed to be addressed. Concern was expressed that for many reasons the information and communications technology initiatives were not developing as expected, which could have an impact on the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system and, consequently, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Conclusions and recommendations

341. **The Committee also noted that staff medical services were not equally available at each duty station and, in that regard, recommended to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to consider the issue of ensuring that health services are equally available to staff in every duty station.**

342. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 24, Management and support services, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 24.6

In the second sentence, after the words "enterprise resource planning system", insert "according to the decisions of the General Assembly".

A. Headquarters

Subprogramme 1
Management services, administration of justice and services to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and to the Committee for Programme and Coordination

(a) Management services

Objective of the Organization

Delete "the words capacity and administrative".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishments (b) and (c) and redesignate expected accomplishment (d) as expected accomplishment (b).

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) as indicator (a) (i).

In indicator of achievement (b), delete the words "concerning internal control".

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) as indicator (a) (ii).

Redesignate indicator of achievement (c) (i) as indicator (a) (iii).

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (ii) with the following:

"(c) (ii) Improvement of management of administrative overhead cost per United Nations staff"

and redesignate it as indicator (a) (iv).

Replace indicator of achievement (d) with the following:

"(d) Implementation of concrete measures, such as a planning table, in order to monitor management services functions"

and redesignate it as indicator (b).

Subprogramme 2
Programme planning, budget and accounts

(a) Programme planning and budgeting

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (b), delete the words "and extrabudgetary activities".

Replace expected accomplishment (c) with the following:

"(c) Improved monitoring of extrabudgetary activities and client services".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), replace the words "secretaries of intergovernmental bodies and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions" with "Member States".

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), after the word "obligations", insert "and cancellation of prior-period obligations"

and redesignate indicator (b) (i) as indicator (b).

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) (ii) as indicator (c) (ii).

Replace indicator (c) (iii) with the following:

"(c) (iii) Reduce the number of unsatisfied clients to zero per cent".

(b) Financial services relating to peacekeeping operations

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) as (a) (i).

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (ii) with indicator (a) (ii) under subprogramme 2 (a), programme planning and budgeting, approved for 2008-2009, reading:

"(a) (ii) Increased percentage of budget and performance reports submitted by the documentation deadlines".

(c) Accounting, contributions and financial reporting

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (d) with that of expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 2 (e), Assessment and processing of contributions, approved for 2008-2009, so that it reads:

"(d) Timely submission of documentation required for informed decision-making by Member States on issues related to the scale of assessments, the basis for financing peacekeeping activities and the status of contributions".

Delete expected accomplishment (e).

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicator of achievement (e).

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management

(a) Policy and strategic planning

Indicators of achievement

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) as indicator (a) (i).

Add a new indicator of achievement (a) (ii) reading:

"(a) (ii) Reduce the difference between the planned and achieved goals in human resources".

(b) Recruitment and staffing

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishment (c).

Convert expected accomplishment (b) into indicator of achievement (a) (vi).

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (iii), replace the words "in particular" with "including", and add at the end "especially at senior management levels".

At the end of indicator (a) (iv), add "at all duty stations".

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) as indicator (a) (v).

Delete indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (c) (ii).

(d) Medical services

Objective of the Organization

Replace the text with the objective under subprogramme 3 (c), Medical services, approved for the period 2008-2009, reading:

"Objective of the Organization: to ensure that all staff members, including those on mission, are fit to carry out their duties".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishments (c) and (d).

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicators of achievement (c) (i), (c) (ii), and (d).

Subprogramme 4
Support services

(a) Information and communications technology services

Objective of the Organization

Replace objectives 1 and 2 with the following:

"Objective of the Organization: to facilitate the achievement of the operational and strategic goals of the Organization through information and communications technology".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under former objective 1, delete expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d). Under former objective 2, delete expected accomplishment (a) and (b).

Under the new, single objective, add expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) reading:

"(a) Improved capability of the Organization in the area of the management and provision of services"

"(b) Improved services provided by the Information and Technology Services Division in meeting the strategic goals of the Organization"

"(c) Increased responsiveness in closing operational gaps".

Indicators of achievement

Under former objective 1, delete indicators of achievement (a) (i), (a) (ii), (b), and (d) (ii).

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (a) from former objective 2 as expected accomplishment (a) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(a) Increased number of services automated".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (c) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (b) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(b) Increased number of services meeting expected service levels".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (d) (i) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (c) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(c) Increased number of services provided according to best practices, as determined by organizations of recognized international stature, such as the International Organization for Standardization".

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

Subprogramme 2
Programme planning, budget and accounts (Geneva)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the words "and extrabudgetary resources".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

"(b) Improved monitoring of extrabudgetary activities and client services".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "obligations", insert "and cancellation of prior-period obligations".

Redesignate indicator (a) (i) as indicator (a).

Delete the existing indicator of achievement (b) (ii) and redesignate indicator (a) (ii) as indicator (b) (ii).

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading:

"(b) (iii) Reduce the number of unsatisfied clients to zero per cent".

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management (Geneva)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishment (a) and redesignate the subsequent expected accomplishments accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) and redesignate the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Subprogramme 4
Support services (Geneva)

(a) Information and communications technology services

Objective of the Organization

Replace objectives 1 and 2 with the following:

"Objective of the Organization: to facilitate the achievement of the operational and strategic goals of the Organization through information and communications technology".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under former objective 1, delete expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d). Under former objective 2, delete expected accomplishments (a) and (b).

Under the new, single objective, add expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) reading:

"(a) Improved capability of the Organization in the area of the management and provision of services"

"(b) Improved services provided by the Information and Technology Services Division in meeting the strategic goals of the Organization"

"(c) Increased responsiveness in closing operational gaps".

Indicators of achievement

Under former objective 1, delete indicators of achievement (a) (i), (a) (ii), (b) and (d) (ii).

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (a) from former objective 2 as expected accomplishment (a) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(a) Increased number of services automated".

Insert the text of existing indicator of achievement (c) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (b) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(b) Increased number of services in meeting expected service levels".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (d) (i) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (c) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(c) Increased number of services provided according to best practices, as determined by organizations of recognized international stature, such as the International Organization for Standardization".

C. United Nations Office at Vienna

Subprogramme 2
Programme planning, budget and accounts (Vienna)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the words "and extrabudgetary resources".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

"(b) Improved monitoring of extrabudgetary activities and client services"

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "obligations", insert "and cancellation of prior-period obligations".

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) (i) as indicator (a).

Delete the existing indicator of achievement (b) (ii) and redesignate indicator (a) (ii) as indicator (b) (ii).

Add a new indicator (b) (iii) reading:

"(b) (iii) Reduce the number of unsatisfied clients to zero per cent".

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management (Vienna)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishment (a) and redesignate the subsequent expected accomplishments accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) and redesignate the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Subprogramme 4
Support services (Vienna)

(a) Information and communications technology services

Objective of the Organization

Replace objectives 1 and 2 with the following:

"Objective of the Organization: to facilitate the achievement of the operational and strategic goals of the Organization through information and communications technology".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under former objective 1, delete expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d). Under former objective 2, delete expected accomplishments (a) and (b).

Under the new, single objective, add expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) reading:

"(a) Improved capability of the Organization in the area of the management and provision of services"

"(b) Improved services provided by the Information and Technology Services Division in meeting the strategic goals of the Organization"

"(c) Increased responsiveness in closing operational gaps".

Indicators of achievement

Under former objective 1, delete indicators of achievement (a) (i), (a) (ii), (b) and (d) (ii).

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (a) from former objective 2 as expected accomplishment (a) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(a) Increased number of services automated".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (c) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (b) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(b) Increased number of services meeting expected service levels".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (d) (i) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (c) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(c) Increased number of services provided according to best practices, as determined by organizations of recognized international stature, such as the International Organization for Standardization".

D. United Nations Office at Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Programme planning, budget and accounts (Nairobi)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the words "and extrabudgetary resources".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

"(b) Improved monitoring of extrabudgetary activities and client services".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "obligations", insert "and cancellation of prior-period obligations".

Redesignate indicator of achievement (a) (i) as indicator (a).

Delete the existing indicator of achievement (b) (ii) and redesignate indicator (a) (ii) as indicator (b) (ii).

Replace indicator (b) (iii) with the following:

"(b) (iii) Reduce the number of unsatisfied clients to zero per cent".

Subprogramme 3
Human resources management (Nairobi)

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Delete expected accomplishment (a) and redesignate the subsequent expected accomplishments accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

Delete indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) and redesignate the subsequent indicators accordingly.

Subprogramme 4
Support services (Nairobi)

(a) Information and communications technology services

Objective of the Organization

Replace objectives 1 and 2 with the following:

"Objective of the Organization: to facilitate the achievement of the operational and strategic goals of the Organization through information and communications technology".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under former objective 1, delete expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c) and (d). Under former objective 2, delete expected accomplishments (a) and (b).

Under the new, single objective, add expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) as follows:

"(a) Improved capability of the Organization in the area of the management and provision of services"

"(b) Improved services provided by the Information and Technology Services Division in meeting strategic goals of the Organization"

"(c) Increased responsiveness in closing operational gaps".

Indicators of achievement

Under former objective 1, delete indicators of achievement (a) (i), (a) (ii), (b) and (d) (ii).

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (a) from former objective 2 as expected accomplishment (a) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(a) Increased number of services automated".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (c) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (b) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(b) Increased number of services meeting expected service levels".

Insert the text of indicator of achievement (d) (i) from former objective 1 as expected accomplishment (c) under the new, single objective, so that it reads:

"(c) Increased number of services provided according to best practices, as determined by organizations of recognized international stature, such as the International Organization for Standardization".

Programme 25
Internal oversight

343. At its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 25)).

344. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

345. It was noted that the proposed biennial programme plan for 2010-2011 varied significantly from the plan for the period 2008-2009. As there was no change in the mandate of the programme, clarification was sought regarding the underlying reasons for the changes, in particular under subprogramme 2, Inspection and

evaluation, and subprogramme 3, Investigations. Clarification was also sought as to whether the Office of Internal Oversight Services had consulted the Independent Audit Advisory Committee at the time of drafting the proposal. Concern was expressed regarding the frequent use of the word "independent" throughout the proposals.

346. The view was expressed that there was no clear distinction between the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement reflected under the three subprogrammes. The definition of each subprogramme and the difference between the evaluation of the programme and evaluation of the implementation of the programme was requested. It was also pointed out that in some cases it was necessary to refine indicators of achievement, which were sometimes not linked to the expected accomplishments.

347. Under subprogramme 1, Internal audit, it was noted that, as part of the strategy, the Internal Audit Division would develop appropriate capacities to meet the emerging challenges. Clarification was sought on the type of capacities the Office would develop in order to meet the emerging challenges.

348. With regard to subprogramme 2, Inspection and evaluation, it was noted that while there was no change to the functions under the subprogramme, significant changes had been proposed to the biennial programme plan, including changing the name of the subprogramme from "Monitoring, evaluation and consulting" to "Inspection and evaluation". Further clarification was sought on indicator of achievement (b) (i) as to what was meant by "recommendations of a systemic and organization-wide nature".

349. Under subprogramme 3, Investigations, it was pointed out that the objective, expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement had been changed and reflected more specific terms vis-à-vis the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009. In that regard, concerns were raised as to whether the Office would be able to comply with the very specific terms reflected in the proposed plan.

350. It was observed that as part of the strategy under subprogramme 3, the Investigations Division would facilitate an increased synergy among the various divisions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Concern was expressed, particularly with regard to investigations owing to the confidentiality associated with the work.

351. It was noted that the functions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services had been increasing in various sectors and had become more diverse. In that regard, the view was expressed that dealing with the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations was a delicate task, particularly in respect of cases of sexual exploitation in which the image of the Organization was damaged. Questions were raised concerning the validity of using exposure to economic loss to demonstrate the adverse impact of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Conclusions and recommendations

352. The Committee noted that the investigation function of the Office of Internal Oversight Services represented a useful tool to reduce the Organization's exposure to risk and recommended to the General Assembly in that regard to take into account the need to ensure that the investigation

process was accompanied by adequate guarantees of transparency, accountability and impartiality.

353. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 25.3 (c)

Delete the words "and efficiency".

Subprogramme 1
Internal audit

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read:

"To strengthen the Organization's risk management and internal control processes and to contribute to improving governance".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "independent audits" with the words "internal audits".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "accountability of" with the words "accountability by".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator of achievement (a) (i) reading:

"(a) (i) Increased mention of the Internal Audit Division's reports in the decision-making of Member States".

Replace the text of old indicator of achievement (a) (i) with the following:

"Increased percentage of programme managers that express satisfaction with the accuracy and usefulness of the Internal Audit Division's reports"

and redesignate it as indicator (a) (ii)

Redesignate old indicator of achievement (a) (ii) as indicator (a) (iii).

Strategy

Paragraph 25.5

In the second sentence, replace the words "develop appropriate capacities to meet emerging challenges" with the words "adapt its organization to meet future challenges".

Subprogramme 2
Inspection and evaluation

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read:

"To strengthen accountability, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact in the implementation of programmes".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

"(a) Increased ability of Member States and the Secretariat to make decisions based on OIOS inspections and evaluations, including self-evaluation findings which improve relevance, efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the programmes and subprogrammes".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following:

"(b) Increased ability of Member States and the Secretariat to make decisions, based on findings and recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services pertaining to cross-cutting practices within the Secretariat".

Delete expected accomplishment (c).

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "relevance", insert the words "in the implementation".

In indicator of achievement (b) (i), replace the words "systemic and organization-wide" with the words "thematic and in-depth".

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (ii).

Redesignate indicator of achievement (c) (i) as indicator (b) (ii).

Delete indicator of achievement (c) (ii).

Subprogramme 3
Investigations

Objective of the Organization

Revise the objective to read:

"To safeguard through investigations the Organization's interests, assets and resources by limiting exposure to organizational risks."

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (a) with the following:

(a) "Improved investigation recommendations which effectively contribute to reducing the Organization's risk exposure and increasing its efficiency and accountability".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) with the following:

(a) "Increased number of investigation recommendations which effectively contribute to reducing the Organization's risk exposure and increasing its efficiency and accountability".

In indicator of achievement (b), after the word "recommendations", insert the words "accepted and".

Replace indicator of achievement (c) with the following:

(c) "Increased percentage of programme managers who received basic investigation training and evaluated it positively".

Strategy

Paragraph 25.7

Delete the second sentence.

Programme 26
Jointly financed activities

354. At its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 26)).

355. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

356. Regarding component B, Joint Inspection Unit, of programme 26, clarification was sought as to the relevance of the Committee's analysis of the strategic framework of the Joint Inspection Unit at this time, given the internal reform that the Unit is currently undergoing and that its programme of work would be presented in its annual report. The view was expressed that the objectives in the strategic framework refer only to the Joint Inspection Unit secretariat, while the strategic framework for the Unit itself would be submitted directly to the General Assembly as part of the programme of work for the Unit for 2009.

Conclusions and recommendations

357. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

A. International Civil Service Commission

Strategy

Paragraph 26.2

In the first sentence, after the words "To accomplish its objectives", insert the words "and bearing in mind the limitations imposed by Member States on their national civil service".

B. Joint Inspection Unit

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "acceptance", insert the words "and implementation".

In indicator of achievement (b) (ii), after the word "acceptance", insert the words "and implementation".

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment (d) reading:

"(d) Enhanced coordination within the United Nations system related to the adoption and implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards according to the agreed timetable".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the word "coherent", insert the words "and coordinated".

Redesignate indicator of achievement (b) as (b) (i) and add a new indicator of achievement (b) (ii) reading:

"(b) (ii) Number of measures taken and, when needed, the assessed impact on all corresponding instructions and guidelines".

Add a new indicator of achievement (d) reading:

"Number of meetings held and harmonization measures agreed within the United Nations system on accounting policies and practices for the timely implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards".

Programme 27
Safety and security

358. At its 12th meeting, on 18 June 2008, the Committee considered programme 27, Safety and security, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 27)).

359. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

360. Appreciation and support were expressed for the overall orientation of the programme.

361. The view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement under subprogramme 1, Security and safety coordination, needed further refinement or clarification.

362. Regarding subprogramme 2 (a), Regional field operation coordination, clarification was sought on the system of coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support, the Department of Political Affairs and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Views were expressed that the strategy for this subprogramme, including strengthening partnerships with the host country, was crucial.

363. Reference was made to the Independent Panel on Staff Safety and Security and clarification was sought as to whether the proposed biennial programme plan was flexible enough to cover any recommendations that the Panel might make.

364. The view was also expressed that the harmonization of security standards was an important project, and clarification was sought on the current status of the project.

Conclusions and recommendations

365. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 27, Safety and security, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 27.2 (b)

After the words "system-wide methodology", insert the words: "in full cooperation with national authorities of host countries".

Subprogramme 2
Regional field coordination and support

(a) Regional field operation coordination

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator of achievement (a) (i), insert the words: "in full cooperation with the national authorities of host countries".

C. Evaluation

1. In-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support

366. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support (E/AC.51/2008/2).

367. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report, and representatives of OIOS and the Department of Political Affairs responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

368. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the report of OIOS and several commended its quality. Delegations also expressed their general agreement with the conclusions contained in the report, and a number of delegations expressed their support for the recommendations.

369. Delegations agreed that special political missions had an important role to play in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts of the United Nations. Some noted with concern the observations made by OIOS that the role of special political missions, their part in the peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts of the United Nations, and their partnerships with other parts of the United Nations system were ill-defined. Delegations also expressed concern that there was insufficient coordination between special political missions and other United Nations actors.

370. Delegations noted the OIOS finding that it was not easy to gauge whether special political missions were implementing their mandates effectively. That difficulty was compounded by the lack of systematic performance information and a lack of evaluation of the impact of the work of special political missions in prior reporting periods. Delegations agreed that there needed to be more scrutiny of the performance of special political missions, the relevance of their activities and of whether they were producing the desired results.

371. Some delegations noted the need for improved strategic planning and budgeting for special political missions, and a question was raised regarding the viability of missions producing exit strategies as part of their strategic planning and budgeting. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services noted that there must be more attention paid to developing mission exit strategies that helped define and plan for the eventual cessation of the mission. A few delegations also noted with concern that recruitment processes were not able to provide staff with the skills appropriate to the special political missions within the required time frame, as well as the low representation of women staff in missions, and that many staff surveyed believed the amount of training they received was not sufficient.

372. Questions were raised about the efforts of the Department of Political Affairs in addressing the findings contained in the report and about what initiatives were under way within the Department to implement the recommendations. The representative of the Department responded that some steps had already been taken to implement the recommendations and that implementation of the Secretary-General's proposals for the strengthening of the Department would also address some of the findings contained within the report.

Conclusions and recommendations

373. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly to endorse recommendations 1 to 4 contained in the report of OIOS (E/AC.51/2008/2), subject to the provisions below.

374. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly revise recommendation 1 (para. 55) as follows: after the words "should develop", insert "within its mandate".

375. In that regard, the Committee noted in particular the need to improve the overall management of the special political missions, as well as (a) the intended overall role and goals of the mission, (b) the expected activities of the mission and how those activities would contribute to the achievement of the mission mandate, (c) the expected time required to achieve the mandate and (d) indicators or criteria that might be used in measuring mission progress and in determining whether the mission could be said to have accomplished its mandate.

376. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that special political missions and other local actors strengthen their cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the expected outcomes and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the United Nations.

2. Triennial review: in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

377. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/AC.51/2008/3).

378. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report, and the Deputy Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

379. Several delegations expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive review by OIOS of the implementation of recommendations emanating from its in-depth evaluation of UN-Habitat. A number of delegations expressed agreement with the conclusions contained in the triennial review.

380. Several delegations commended UN-Habitat for the effective manner in which it had implemented the OIOS recommendations. As a result, UN-Habitat was more efficient, had improved coordination with partners and made better use of limited resources. The work of UN-Habitat had also played an important role in increasing the visibility of slum upgrading and human settlements, as well as in bringing together stakeholders on these issues. A few delegations commented that UN-Habitat should continue to build on its achievements and make further progress towards implementing the recommendations. Several delegations raised questions on the implications for UN-Habitat of implementing the recommendations. The representative of UN-Habitat stated that reform was an ongoing process and that UN-Habitat was indeed continuing to build on its achievements.

Conclusions and recommendations

381. The Committee welcomed the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

382. **The Committee commended UN-Habitat for implementing the recommendations made by OIOS and for its efforts in improving overall programme efficiencies and effectiveness.**

383. **The Committee further commended UN-Habitat for aligning its activities with the United Nations in all relevant areas.**

3. Triennial review: evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

384. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 June 2008, the Committee considered the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2008/4).

385. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) introduced the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (see E/AC.51/2008/4/Add.1). The representative of CEB responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

386. Delegations welcomed the report and expressed their overall approval of its conclusions. Support was expressed for the need to enhance inter-agency interaction and coordination.

387. Questions were raised regarding why the recommendation of OIOS on the establishment of a working group to consider the roles of the inter-agency coordination bodies had not been carried out, and why the OIOS recommendation on incorporating coordination and collaboration into performance appraisal systems in departments of the Secretariat had not been implemented. The representative of the CEB secretariat responded, noting that pursuant to the recent review of the functions and structure of the Board, including its relationships with other inter-agency coordination bodies, and the subsequent decision to integrate the United Nations Development Group into its inter-agency framework in order to enhance normative and operational links within the system, it had been determined that there was no further need for an additional working group. Regarding performance appraisal systems, he noted that, owing to the diverse nature of work conducted by departments of the Secretariat, the task of standardizing performance appraisal was not an easy one. However, the Human Resources Network of the High-level Committee on Management had put this item in its agenda for future sessions, and it was hoped that the issue would be addressed within the context of the Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices in the United Nations system (CEB/2008/HLCM/11).

Conclusions and recommendations

388. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to continue his efforts to ensure**

enhanced collaboration among inter-agency coordinating bodies, in respect of poverty eradication within the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in the light of the results already achieved by the Board.

389. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue implementing the remaining recommendations.

Chapter III
Coordination questions

A. Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

390. At its 5th meeting, on 11 June 2008, the Committee considered the annual overview report of CEB for 2007/08 (E/2008/58).

391. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

392. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the annual overview report of CEB for 2007/08, as well as for the role of CEB in enhancing coordination and effectiveness in the United Nations system. They welcomed the integration of the United Nations Development Group into the CEB framework as an important step in continuing efforts to strengthen the Board and the coordination of the United Nations system as a whole.

393. Delegations welcomed the Board's work on climate change, the global food crisis and the development of Africa, emphasizing that those were priority issues where CEB had an essential coordinating role to play. The view was expressed that the global food crisis put at risk the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in Africa. Several delegations expressed appreciation for the Board's coordination efforts with regard to the issues of peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and people with disabilities.

394. Several delegations highlighted the Board's work in elaborating a plan of action for harmonizing business practices, in particular the human resources aspects of the plan. A number of delegations noted its enhanced role in that regard and expressed caution that that should not pre-empt Member States' consideration of business practices as part of ongoing discussions of system-wide coherence in the General Assembly.

395. Several delegations emphasized that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly was considering the issue of sustainable procurement as part of its consideration of procurement reform and that CEB should await the outcome of those discussions before proceeding with its own initiatives in that regard.

396. A number of delegations highlighted the importance of the year-long United Nations system-wide human rights advocacy campaign to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and encouraged CEB members to participate in that project.

397. Several delegations sought clarification from the Director of the CEB secretariat on specific issues addressed in the report regarding CEB collaboration with the Peacebuilding Commission; the effectiveness of the employment toolkit; the provision of support to the "delivering as one" pilot projects; the social, economic and cultural factors affecting the security and safety of United Nations staff, as well as CEB coordination with the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises; the activities of the recently

established legal network; the initiatives to improve cooperation with the Joint Inspection Unit; and the status of the independent evaluation of the eight "delivering as one" pilot projects that CEB had directed the United Nations Evaluation Group to conduct.

398. Some delegations highlighted the fact that the report had omitted the issue of gender mainstreaming, which had been covered in the two previous CEB annual overview reports. The view was also expressed that future annual overview reports should provide additional information on the impact and results of CEB decisions, as well as obstacles to coordination that had been encountered.

399. In response to the questions from delegations, the Director of the CEB secretariat pointed out that the format of the report prevented extensive consideration of many important issues. The absence of reflection on a particular subject did not mean that there had not been any activity on that issue. Active coordinated work was under way by organizations of the system with regard to gender. As to the peacebuilding agenda, he noted that work had been launched to determine how best the United Nations system could align itself behind the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission. He stressed that effective interaction between CEB and the Economic and Social Council was essential, and the collaborative effort on the employment toolkit was a good example in that regard. United Nations organizations were currently undertaking self-assessments with respect to the implementation of the toolkit. On the issue of security and safety, the United Nations was facing a changing environment, as shown by the tragic events in Algeria.

400. The Director of the CEB secretariat clarified that the work of the procurement network of the High-level Committee on Management remained exploratory and would not preclude any outcome of the Fifth Committee's considerations of sustainable procurement. The work of the legal network was, similarly, at an early stage and centred on the exchange of best practices. It was emphasized that efforts were being made to increase the transparency of the work of CEB and that plans were under way to develop a system to record financial flows and statistics, to monitor decisions and to make the website more user-friendly. On the issue of harmonization of business practices, the Director stated that such initiatives stemmed from General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The United Nations system remained committed to the 2010 target for the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, but the achievement of that goal was dependent on the progress towards harmonization of enterprise resource planning systems. CEB had further directed the United Nations Evaluation Group to conduct an independent evaluation of the eight "delivering as one" pilot projects, the first stage of which was expected to be completed shortly.

401. Delegations expressed satisfaction with the actions taken by CEB in response to the Committee's recommendation at its forty-seventh session for closer cooperation between the Board and the International Civil Service Commission. In response, the Director of the CEB secretariat stressed the positive relationship established with the Joint Inspection Unit and highlighted the fact that relations with the Joint Inspection Unit were improving and that the Chairman of the Joint Inspection Unit would be invited to participate in the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes.

Conclusions and recommendations

402. The Committee took note of the annual overview report of CEB for 2007/08 (E/2008/58).

403. The Committee stressed that CEB had a mandate for coordination of the senior management of the United Nations system. In that regard, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to ensure that when coordinating different issues, including management issues, relevant General Assembly resolutions be fully taken into account.

404. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to ensure that the annual overview report of CEB include information on measures taken by the Board to improve its transparency and accountability.

405. The Committee took note of the information provided about the reform of CEB, the plan of action for harmonization and reform of business practices, the security management system and the idea of a climate-neutral United Nations. In that context, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on those issues during the main part of its sixty-third session.

406. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to provide in his future annual overview report specific information on the main difficulties encountered in the implementation of the coordination activities in different sectors as well as on the relevant solutions adopted and the impact of CEB activities on the United Nations system.

407. The Committee noted the endorsement by CEB of the recommendation for an evaluation of the eight pilot projects carried out at the country level under the One United Nations initiative. In that context, the Committee stressed the importance of an independent, objective and impartial evaluation process of One United Nations pilot projects. It pointed out that any criteria and methodology to assess the impact of the United Nations pilot projects should first be considered and approved by Member States.

408. The Committee, reiterating the conclusion contained in paragraph 114 of its report on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16), stressed that the provision of United Nations support to "delivering as one" pilot projects should not prejudice the outcome of the intergovernmental deliberations on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence by the General Assembly.

409. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to continue to monitor the effective collaboration of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty.

410. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the progress achieved by CEB in coordinating activities in the United Nations system and request the Secretary-General to enhance coordinated efforts, in particular on emerging global food crises, especially in the light of the threat it

was posing to advances made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

411. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to present in its annual reports the progress being achieved regarding the main difficulties encountered by the organizations of the system in addressing the issue of malnutrition and hunger.**

412. **The Committee welcomed the high priority that CEB continued to attach to ensuring the effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and requested CEB to ensure that support for the New Partnership remained a priority for the United Nations system. It encouraged CEB member organizations to further align their priorities with those of NEPAD and to scale up their efforts to support it.**

413. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly reaffirm its resolution 62/269, in which the Assembly recalled that it had not considered for approval the concept of environmentally friendly and sustainable procurement for the United Nations Secretariat, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the content of and criteria for such a concept, including detailed information on its possible impact on the diversification of the origin of vendors and on international competition, including for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for the consideration of the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.**

414. **The Committee welcomed the information provided on the cooperation between CEB, the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, and encouraged CEB to strengthen that cooperation through more frequent participation of the Joint Inspection Unit and the International Civil Service Commission in the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes.**

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

415. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 11 June 2008, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2008/5).

416. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

417. Much appreciation was expressed for the informative and comprehensive nature of the report. Strong statements of support were made for NEPAD in particular and Africa's development in general. There was acknowledgement of the impressive work carried out by the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD, as well as the increased level of cooperation among the various entities. Also, several delegates underlined the need to further strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination, to ensure effective use of resources and to improve communication among the organizations.

418. It was emphasized that the support of the United Nations system for NEPAD must yield results-based action. In that regard, it was reiterated that more emphasis should be placed on evaluating the impact of the various activities of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD.

419. It was noted that NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism reflected priorities of Africa. In that connection, the need to further align the activities of the United Nations system entities with NEPAD/African Union Commission priorities was emphasized. Several delegates acknowledged the importance of Africa's ownership and leadership, combined with international partnerships, as a key to progress in the implementation of NEPAD.

420. Several delegates expressed concern that Africa was not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. While acknowledging encouraging progress in a number of areas, delegates drew attention to significant challenges that remained in many African countries, among them the need for more capacity-building and greater resource mobilization. Success stories across the continent needed to be scaled up. The need to support regional integration in Africa and build the capacity of the regional economic communities was highlighted. Concern was also expressed about the slow progress in the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

421. A number of speakers emphasized the need to address new and emerging challenges facing Africa, such as the food crisis, the energy crisis and climate change. In particular, the food crisis was highlighted as a challenge that could hamper development efforts in all areas. It was suggested that the United Nations system should show increased adaptability and flexibility in its support for Africa, taking into account global developments and General Assembly resolutions.

422. Several delegates emphasized the link between peace and development. In that regard, the efforts of the African Union to enhance peace and security in the continent were commended.

423. Speakers expressed their expectations that the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs planned for 22 September 2008, together with the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals planned for 25 September 2008, would identify the way forward towards better addressing the challenges facing Africa.

424. Answering a question regarding the link between NEPAD and the proposals of the MDG Africa Steering Group on food security, the Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa elaborated on the main pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

425. Responding to a question regarding the report's recommendation on common funding for new programmes, the Director noted that modalities for common funding of new joint activities would be negotiated by the organizations and departments themselves.

Conclusions and recommendations

426. **The Committee welcomed the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD.**

427. **The Committee urged the United Nations system and relevant regional organizations, in collaboration with the joint African Union/NEPAD secretariat, to continue to fully support action programmes designed to sustain**

the implementation of the priorities identified by the leadership of the continent.

428. The Committee requested the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat and African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of NEPAD and to place greater emphasis on dissemination of its activities in support of NEPAD and monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness.

429. The Committee recognized the support provided by the United Nations system for NEPAD, covering nine thematic clusters corresponding broadly to the priorities of NEPAD, which included activities such as providing technical assistance for institutional development, capacity-building and project development, mobilization of resources and advocacy.

430. The Committee acknowledged the important role played by the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat in implementing NEPAD objectives and in that regard called for greater United Nations inter-agency collaboration to ensure that NEPAD was mainstreamed in all the normative and operational activities of the United Nations system so as to strengthen the secretariats of both the African Union Commission and NEPAD through institutional and technical capacity-building.

431. The Committee urged the United Nations system to develop an integrated framework for supporting the African Union Commission. It recognized that peace and development were interlinked and urged the United Nations system to enhance the support that it provided to the African Union Commission in the areas of economic and social development, including regional integration, as well as peace and security, in a balanced and equitable manner. In that regard, existing mechanisms for consultation between the United Nations system and the African Union Commission should be further strengthened so as to enhance and broaden the support provided to the Commission.

432. The Committee recognized the multidisciplinary nature of the development challenges facing Africa and called upon entities of the United Nations system to further harmonize their policies and support so that their collective and concerted actions could create synergies across thematic clusters.

433. The Committee stressed that improved cross-sectoral collaboration could help in mainstreaming economic, financial and social development issues within the context of cross-cutting ones.

434. The Committee underlined the importance of the initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years and emphasized in that regard the need for United Nations system coordination with such initiatives in support of NEPAD.

435. The Committee stressed that the merger of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should not undermine the United Nations system's focus on and support for NEPAD programmes.

Chapter IV

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

436. At its 19th meeting, on 2 July 2008, the Committee considered agenda item 6, entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate".

Conclusions and recommendations

437. **The Committee reaffirmed its role as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.**

438. **The Committee took note with appreciation of the progress made in the improvement of its working methods.**

439. **The Committee reiterated its decision to devote more time to informal consultations and encouraged the presence of senior-level members of the Secretariat at such informal meetings with a view to greater emphasis on dialogue with, and clarifications by, the Secretariat. It also emphasized the value added of "informal informal" consultations as a tool to reach consensus.**

440. **The Committee reaffirmed the importance of improving working methods and decided to remain seized of the matter.**

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee

441. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, together with the required documentation.

442. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

443. The draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative mandates and will be completed at the end of the present session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 58/269 and 62/224);

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) Evaluations.

   Documentation

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolution 62/224)

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

   Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the

in-depth evaluation of political affairs (General Assembly resolutions 61/235 and 62/224 and document E/AC.51/2008/L.4/Add.1)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on thematic evaluation of lessons learned: protocols and practices (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on thematic evaluation of United Nations coordinating bodies (General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of United Nations support for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing countries and Africa; and addendum: in-depth evaluation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (General Assembly resolution 61/235)

4. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

   Documentation

   Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for 2008/09

   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.

7. Provisional agenda for the fiftieth session.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-ninth session.

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at its forty-eighth session

A/63/6	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 Part one: Plan outline
	Part two: biennial programme plan
A/63/6 (Prog. 1)	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/63/6 (Prog. 2)	Political affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 3)	Disarmament
A/63/6 (Prog. 4)	Peacekeeping operations
A/63/6 (Prog. 5)	Peaceful uses of outer space
A/63/6 (Prog. 6)	Legal affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 7)	Economic and social affairs
A/63/6 (Prog. 8)	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/63/6 (Prog. 9)	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/63/6 (Prog. 10)	Trade and development
A/63/6 (Prog. 11)	Environment
A/63/6 (Prog. 12)	Human settlements
A/63/6 (Prog. 13)	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/63/6 (Prog. 14)	Economic and social development in Africa
A/63/6 (Prog. 15)	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/63/6 (Prog. 16)	Economic development in Europe
A/63/6 (Prog. 17) and Corr.1	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/63/6 (Prog. 18) and Corr.1	Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/63/6 (Prog. 19)	Human rights

A/63/6 (Prog. 20)	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/63/6 (Prog. 21)	Palestine refugees
A/63/6 (Prog. 22)	Humanitarian assistance
A/63/6 (Prog. 23) and Corr.1	Public information
A/63/6 (Prog. 24)	Management and support services
A/63/6 (Prog. 25)	Internal oversight
A/63/6 (Prog. 26)	Jointly financed activities
A/63/6 (Prog. 27)	Safety and security
A/63/70	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007
E/2008/58	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08 (Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX))
E/AC.51/2008/1	Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2008/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: field special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs but supported by the Department of Field Support
E/AC.51/2008/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
E/AC.51/2008/4 and Add.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration
E/AC.51/2008/5	Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

E/AC.51/2008/6	Letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2008/L.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2008/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
E/AC.51/2008/L.3	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Committee (Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII))
E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and Add.1-35	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session
E/AC.51/2008/CRP.1 and Add.1-2	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: review of part two: biennial programme plan, by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
E/AC.51/2008/INF/1	List of delegations

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